

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli warplane crashed in southern Israel Sunday, an army spokesman said. The two pilots bailed out and were injured, one seriously, the spokesman said. A military source said the plane was an American-manufactured F-16 fighter-bomber. A preliminary examination suggested the crash may have been caused by a bird sucked into the jet engine, the spokesman said.

Cairo summit calls present situation a 'serious threat to future of region'

King, Mubarak and Arafat call on Israel to meet peace commitments

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

CAIRO — His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Sunday described the present situation in the Middle East as posing "a serious threat to the future of the region" and called on Israel to honour all the agreements it signed with all parties, stop all settlement activities and lift "collective sanctions" imposed on the Palestinians.

In a joint communiqué issued after a four-hour meeting at the Kobbah Palace, in northern Cairo, the three leaders called for the "strict implementation of all agreements signed by the parties involved in the peace process" and urged the Jewish state to "implement all stages of the redeployment process which was supposed to take place on Sept. 7," but was indefinitely postponed by the hard-line government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in retaliation to a triple suicide bombing in



His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discuss the latest developments concerning the fragile peace process in Cairo on Sunday (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

west Jerusalem last Thursday.

The three heads of state stressed the need for "reaffirming the commitment of the parties concerned not to resort to any unilateral actions or behaviours

deemed to contravene with their commitments and pledges, or with the spirit of peace, or what would negatively affect the peaceful resolution by negotiations of controversial issues."

In particular, the joint communiqué firmly condemned "the continuation of Israeli settlement activities, the confiscation of Palestinian territories, and the imposition of collective sanctions on the Palestinian

people."

Urging Israel to "stop all attempts to determine the legal and actual status of Jerusalem outside the final status negotiations"

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Iraq complains U.N. unfair in overseeing oil-for-food deal

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq complained Sunday that it was being treated unfairly under the U.N. approved oil-for-food deal and blamed the United States and Britain.

The complaint was contained in a letter sent by Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al-Sahhaf to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

It is upset that it is being held to selling \$1 billion worth of crude oil within a 90-day period, while food and medicines purchased with the money come in with much delay.

"To leave the food delivery time schedule wide open without commitment ... is not fair," Mr. Sahhaf said in his letter, which was made available to journalists.

He repeated Iraq's contention that the U.S. and Britain were holding up contracts for food and other humanitarian goods at the U.N.

The complaint was made public as the chief U.N. weapons inspector, Richard Butler, met Sunday with Tareq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister.

Mr. Butler is in the country preparing a report due Oct. 11 on the status of Iraq's weapons programme. He is to leave Tuesday.

The United Nations imposed sanctions banning the sale of oil after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which sparked the 1991 Gulf war. The sanctions

cannot be lifted until Mr. Butler's commission certifies that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

The U.N. last December approved limited Iraqi oil sales under a so-called "oil-for-food" programme that allows the country to buy needed food and medicine for its 20 million people.

The latest phase began June 8, but Iraq delayed selling and shipping oil until August, saying it was necessary for the U.N. to first approve a new food distribution programme.

Iraq later acknowledged it would not be able to export its allowed \$1 billion in crude by the Sept. 5 deadline. And it said the U.N. had declined to extend the deadline.

Mr. Sahhaf said that 57 contracts for humanitarian goods had been submitted to the U.N. oversight committee but had not yet been distributed to members for review.

He said 83 contracts had been put on hold by the American and British representatives "for baseless reasons" and that 21 contracts had been turned down at U.S. or British request.

"Iraq has complied with its commitments, as required in the resolution, and has cooperated with U.N. observers, and the U.N. is required to do its part of the resolution," Mr. Al-Sahhaf wrote to Mr. Annan.

Chief U.N. arms inspector meets Aziz

BAGHDAD (R) — The United Nations chief arms envoy Richard Butler met Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz Sunday and discussed the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, a U.N. official said.

"He had a tete-a-tete meeting with Tareq Aziz," Jo Lomas, special assistant to the director of Baghdad Ongoing Monitoring and Verification Centre, told Reuters.

Mr. Butler, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) entrusted with dismantling Iraq's prohibited weapons, said when he arrived in Baghdad Friday that Iraq still had to answer questions on its past weapons programmes. He said he would raise them with Mr. Aziz.

"He also had a short plenary session with Aziz," Ms. Lomas said.

Mr. Butler is accompanied by his deputy Charles Duelfer, Russian ballistic missile expert Nikita Smidovchev and five other experts.

Ms. Lomas said Mr. Butler would meet Mr. Aziz again late Sunday and on Monday before leaving Iraq on Tuesday.

She said a 16-member missile team who arrived with UNSCOM's chairman started their inspections Sunday to see if Iraq was still keeping prohibited rockets in its arsenal.

UNSCOM must certify that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction before the U.N. lifts curbs on Iraqi oil exports imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Baghdad is allowed limited oil sales under a humanitarian deal.

Syrian FM meets Lebanon truce committee chief

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa met the head of the International Committee Monitoring a Ceasefire in South Lebanon on Sunday about the latest violence there, Syria's official news agency SANA said. "Sharaa stressed the need to maintain the April [1996 ceasefire] accords" during his discussions with committee chairman John Sullivan, an American, SANA reported. So far this year, 28 civilians have been killed and 100 injured in clashes between Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas, mainly from Hizbollah. On Saturday, Lebanon lodged a complaint with the committee over the death of a Palestinian refugee woman during a "disastrous" raid by elite Israeli commando troops deep into Lebanese territory on Friday.

Israeli troops round up hundreds whilst police reports suggest perpetrators came from abroad

Combined agency dispatches

Israeli troops arrested 100 Palestinians in a pre-dawn sweep Sunday on the West Bank, bringing to 170 the number of suspects detained since a triple suicide bombing last week in Jerusalem, the army said. Those picked up in the pre-dawn raids were suspected of "hostile terrorist" activities for Hamas, which claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack and a similar multiple suicide Jerusalem bombing in July, an army spokesman said.

It was the largest number of arrests in one night in West Bank areas still under Israel's control since Thursday's suicide attack on a pedestrian mall in central Jerusalem which killed four Israelis and wounded more than 170.

Palestinian sources said most of the arrests took place around Hebron and Bethlehem, where Palestinian police in mid-July discovered a Hamas bomb

factory. But the army said Hamas leaders, expecting the roundups, had taken refuge in areas controlled by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

However, Israel Radio on Saturday quoted a Hamas official as saying the group was not behind the attack. The official was quoted as saying Hamas knew who carried out the bombing and that it was done with the aim of embarrassing the PNA. No further details were provided.

The army also said it had tightened controls on back roads leading from the Palestinian areas into Israel for fear Hamas or other groups will attempt new attacks prior to the visit this week by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Israeli police sources told AFP Sunday that the attackers who carried out last week's triple suicide bombing in Israel most likely came from abroad and prepared the attack in



Palestinian police check the Israeli-issued work permits of Palestinian labourers Sunday as they pass through the Palestinian side of the Erez checkpoint to enter and work in the Israeli industrial zone at Erez. Some 2,000 Palestinians reached jobs in the industrial area after Israel eased a closure imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the triple suicide bombing in west Jerusalem on Thursday (Reuters photo)

Israeli-controlled Arab east Jerusalem.

While investigators have yet to identify the three bombers, evidence indi-

cates they travelled from abroad and received their explosives in east Jerusalem, the sources said.

Speaking on condition they not be identified, the sources said the three even

(Continued on page 7)

Ghosheh, Hamas spokesman, detained for 'questioning'

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Authorities Sunday detained the spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Ibrahim Ghosheh, apparently for activities threatening national security.

Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said that Mr. Ghosheh was arrested for a statement he made on Saturday when he said that his group will continue armed struggle as long as "there are Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli jails."

"Mr. Ghosheh has been detained in relation to statements he made which go beyond the bounds and the commitments of the Jordanian law under which he has been given permission to stay in Jordan," Dr. Mutawi told the Jordan Times.

The minister denied the detention of Mr. Ghosheh came following pressure from the Palestinian National Authority and Israel to curb the activities of the Hamas leader in Jordan.

He said that the Kingdom is "a sovereign state which does not act under [foreign] pressure."

Dr. Mutawi said that Mr. Ghosheh will be released as soon as "the security authorities are satisfied that he will abide by his commitments," adding that the length of Mr. Ghosheh's detention depends on the "period needed for questioning."

During an interview with Reuters Television on Saturday, Mr. Ghosheh

said that "each action has its reaction. When the pressure on the Palestinian people is very huge, then you will find that the reaction is very huge."

"Without releasing these people from prison, all signs are towards more struggle and more resistance," said Mr. Ghosheh, referring to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

The arrest of Mr. Ghosheh came four days after the triple suicide bombings in Jerusalem where seven people were killed and more than 170 Israelis were injured.

A statement by the Izz Eddine Qassam, the military wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Omar Ghosheh, the Hamas spokesman's eldest son, told the Jordan Times that about 15 security agents arrived at Mr. Ghosheh's residence in the Tla'a Al-Ali suburb at 11 o'clock and started searching the house.

"The search took them about three hours. During the search, they asked my father several questions about previous statements he made," Mr. Ghosheh's son told the Jordan Times.

He said that his father "has started an open hunger strike until he is released," adding that he does not know where his father has been detained.

Authorities, who spoke on condition of anonymity would not comment on these allegations, except to say that "this is an inaccurate version of what actually happened."

(Continued on page 7)

Shoman says Arab Bank can refuse selling shares to foreign investors

By Abdul Salam Gharaibeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Bank Board Chairman Abdul Majed Shoman Sunday said that the bank's management will scrutinise thoroughly any contract for transferring shares to foreign investors in order to explore the purposes and aims of the deals.

Mr. Shoman said the bank's internal regulations do not allow foreigners to acquire shares of the bank.

"Such a policy aims at preventing foreigners from controlling the bank's management," said Mr. Shoman.

He added that the bank's management has the right to refuse any transfer of shares to foreigners if the bank sees that the transfer, contracted at

the Amman Financial Market (AFM), will harm its interests.

"All the deals contracted recently in favour of non-Arab/foreign beneficiaries were executed as they did not raise any concern and were not worrying," Mr. Shoman explained.

Of the many applications registered last week to purchase the bank's shares, was one to purchase 50,000 shares when the share price was JD310. But these purchase orders dropped when the prices shot up to between JD325-330. Finally, these applications were cancelled when the share price reached JD340.

Sources at the AFM said that when the share price drops, the demand on the

shares increases as was the case with the Arab Bank shares. But, when they increased, foreign investors moved to acquire shares of other companies.

AFM Commission Board Chairman Michel Mario said that the Arab Bank has not refused any share transfer so far.

Dr. Mario stressed that all the transfer of shares contracted has met all legal terms and that the bank's management did not reject or return any of them within the time limit.

The demand on the Arab Bank shares resulted from the lifting controls on foreign ownership in some Jordanian companies.

Israeli FM says he will not accept 'burial' of peace accords with PNA

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy warned Sunday of widespread violence if the peace process collapses and said he would have no part in any government decisions which threaten signed accords, Israeli television said.

"If decisions are taken aimed at burying the Oslo accords [on Palestinian autonomy] we risk going down a path without end, and violence will be widespread," he told the weekly cabinet meeting, the television reported.

"I am not ready to accept such a void and I will not be a party to such decisions," Mr. Levy said.

However, Mr. Levy said Israel had the right to demand that the Palestinian

National Authority (PNA) clamp down against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, which are behind many anti-Israeli attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has frozen further troop withdrawals from the West Bank — the focus of interim peace agreements — and said he will not resume final-status talks with the Palestinians until the PNA launches a real fight against terrorism.

His announcement of the suspension of the interim peace accords follow the two Jerusalem bombings, five weeks apart.

In July, Mr. Netanyahu named Mr. Levy as Israel's chief negotiator with the Palestinians.

Iraq lauds killing of intruding Israeli commandos in Lebanon

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi leaders praised Lebanese forces for killing 12 Israeli commandos, saying such counter-attacks would deter Israel's "aggressive policy" against the Arabs, newspapers said Sunday.

They said President Saddam Hussein chaired a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and senior members of the ruling Baath Party Saturday which discussed Friday's Israeli attack in south Lebanon.

"The meeting appreciated the high-level moral of jihad [holy war] expressed

by the Lebanese fighters and army to confront the Zionist landing in south Lebanon," a spokesman said after the meeting.

Twelve Israeli commandos were killed in fierce fighting with fighters from the Lebanese Hizbollah, Amal Movement and Lebanese army troops north of the Lebanese port city of Tyre Friday.

Iraq has no diplomatic relations with Lebanon. Iraq and Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, have taken steps in recent months to improve their relations after nearly two

decades of hostility.

The Iraqi spokesman said the leadership meeting also praised the Palestinians' "readiness for sacrifice in the occupied territories."

"If some Arab rulers were inspired by a little part of such readiness of jihad, the situation would be different and the Zionist entity policy of aggression and arrogance would have been deterred," he said.

Iraq, which fired scores of Scud missiles on Israel during the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, is still theoretically at war with Israel.

Its official media carry

reports opposing Arab-Israeli peace.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, commenting Sunday on the Israeli commando raid on Lebanon, said: "Such a failing Zionist aggression proves once again that Arabs must work together and escalate their confrontation" against Israel.

"The whole world knows that the unlimited American support to the Zionist entity is the main cause for the Zionist arrogance and disregard of international norms," the paper added.



ISRAEL ENHANCES SECURITY: An armed Israeli infantry soldier goes up an escalator inside a west Jerusalem shopping mall on Sunday on his way to meet other members of his unit assigned for security patrol in the popular mall. Israel has increased its security and imposed a closure on Palestinians entering Israel following the triple suicide bombings on Thursday, which killed four Israelis on a crowded central pedestrian street (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 condemned to death for murder in UAE

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An Emirati and an Iranian are to be executed in the United Arab Emirates for murdering five people in a series of robberies, the official news agency WAM reported Sunday. Mohammad Fakher Hussein and his Iranian accomplice Abdul Mahdi Mushtaq will be crucified on Monday then executed by firing squad the next day in Al Ain, 160 kilometres east of Abu Dhabi. For crucifixion, convicts are tied to a tree or a pole in a public place. Officials said the two men were found guilty by Al Ain court earlier this year and sentenced to death. The verdict was ratified by the president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

Tremor jolts Iranian town; no casualties

TEHRAN (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale jolted a town in northeastern Iran Sunday but there was no immediate word on casualties, the official IRNA news agency said. It said the quake shook the town of Chenaran in the Khorasan province at 11.59 a.m. Iran has been hit by at least three major earthquakes in the past year as well as thousands of aftershocks. About 67 people were injured in a quake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale that struck southern Iran last month. A force four earthquake is strong enough to cause extensive damage in a populated area.

Algerian FM to visit Netherlands, Finland

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf will visit the Netherlands and Finland this week at the invitation of his counterparts in the two north European countries, officials said Sunday. "These visits, which fall under the policy of dialogue and cooperation with Algeria's foreign partners, will be a chance to revive bilateral cooperation with these two countries," a statement from the president's office said. Mr. Attaf met with President Liamine Zeroul before he left Sunday, the statement said.

Saudi plane catches fire

JEDDAH (AP) — A Saudi Arabian Airlines plane caught fire as it was about to take off, forcing the evacuation of all the passengers and crew, the Arab News paper reported Sunday. There were no serious injuries reported in Saturday's incident, but several passengers were treated for bruises and shock, the English language paper said. The right engine of the Boeing 737 caught fire as the aircraft was about to take off Saturday from the southern Saudi city of Najran on an internal flight, the daily said. The pilot brought the aircraft to a halt after noticing the flames and the 79 passengers and six crew members on board were evacuated, the paper reported. Saudi aviation authorities began an investigation to determine the cause of the fire, it said.

Iran police seize 690 kg of opium

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian police seized 690 kilograms of opium from six smugglers in northeastern Iran, the official news agency IRNA said Sunday. Police also confiscated four vehicles in the raids in the cities of Mashhad, Torbat Jam and Torbat Heidarieh, the agency said. It did not give a date for the operation. Iran is a key transit route for drugs smuggled to Europe via Turkey from Afghanistan and Pakistan, known as the "Golden Crescent." More than 1,000 people have been executed for drug-related offences since a 1989 law took effect imposing the death penalty for possession of five kilograms of opium.

5 journalists to be investigated under publishing ban

CAIRO (AP) — The prosecutor general has ordered an investigation of the editor of the state-run Al Ahran daily for violating his ban on reporting about a legal case involving Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi.

Officials at the prosecutor general's office also said that two Al Ahran reporters as well as the editor and a journalist from the opposition Al Shaab newspaper were being investigated.

If they are charged, tried and convicted, the journalists could be sentenced to up to six months in prison and fined \$150.

The new investigation was reported by several Egyptian papers, including Al Ahran. It was confirmed by officials in the prosecutor general's office, who spoke on customary condition their names not be used.

Prosecutor General Raga Al Arabi issued the publication ban last Tuesday barring further reporting about a libel case Mr. Al Alfi has threatened against Al Shaab and its editor, Magdi Hussein.

Al Arabi said the ban would remain in place until he has concluded his study of Gen. Alfi's allegations and takes formal legal action.

Al Shaab has been campaigning for weeks against Gen. Alfi, accusing him of corruption and misuse of his office.

Al Ahran, which is edited by Ibrahim Nafie, Saturday published an analysis of what it called the "interior ministry crisis," which discussed the implications of the threatened libel suit.

The article defended Gen. Alfi's position in the case.

Before the ban, Al Ahran published a full page interview with Gen. Alfi and also published documents the minister said disproved Al Shaab's allegations.

The investigation into violation of the publication ban also targets Mr. Hussein and an Al Shaab writer, the prosecutor general's office said.

On Friday, the opposition Al Shaab published commentaries about the ban.

Last year, a court sentenced Mr. Hussein to two years in prison and fined him \$600 for libelling Al Alfi's two sons. The sentence is on appeal.

Arab Israeli woman accused of spying for Iraq released on bail

ACRE (AFP) — Israeli authorities ordered the release on bail Sunday of an Arab Israeli woman accused of spying for Iraq, officials said.

Nadia Fawdeh, 45, was arrested Aug. 22 on her return to Israel from Egypt where she has lived for the past 12 years with her husband, an Egyptian doctor.

She was accused of providing the Iraqi secret services with photographs of "sensitive" Israeli installations taken during visits home in 1990 and 1991.

Fawdeh denied the charges.

She was released on a bail of \$14,000 and her passport was confiscated, court officials said.

She was also ordered to report to police daily until authorities decide whether they have sufficient evidence to indict her on the espionage charges.

Such an indictment would have to be ordered by Attorney-General Eliyahu Rubinstein.

Her sister Faiza had previously been found guilty of espionage and served four years in prison, court officials said. No further details of Faiza's case were available.

Qatar continues preparations for Mideast conference

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar continued its preparations Saturday for the Middle East and North Africa economic conference scheduled for November in Doha and which Israel is expected to attend.

The official QNA news agency said the "private sector committee" met Saturday to discuss reports on projects to be presented during the conference, which several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Syria, have decided to boycott.

The reports the committee discussed included one on ways of encouraging private foreign companies to participate in the economic forum.

Qatar has said several times it was determined to hold the conference despite the blockade of the Middle East peace process.

Saudi Arabia said it is boycotting the conference because Israel has been intransigent over the peace process, and has called on other countries not to attend the forum.

Syria, which did not participate in the previous three regional economic conferences, is trying to convince other Arab countries not to go.

Damascus says the conference violates Arab League resolutions calling for a freeze on normalisation with Israel.

Refugee camps in east Sudan face lack of funding — Khartoum

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Refugee camps in eastern Sudan face deteriorating conditions as refugees continue to pour in from neighbouring countries and international funding levels stagnate, the government warned Sunday.

Acting refugee commissioner Mohammad Ahmed Hussein Abdul Aleim was quoted in the independent Al Sharee Al Syasi daily as saying: "The medical and health services in the refugee camps have drastically deteriorated for lack of funds" while the flow of refugees into Sudan, mainly from neighbour-

ing Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo, is "increasing continuously."

Mr. Abdul Aleim also denounced Eritrea for refusing to negotiate the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees from Sudan.

Meanwhile, refugees from Sudan face a similar fate in camps in Uganda, according to another Sudanese official, Mahmoud Jumaa Khatir.

He said more than 120,000 Sudanese refugees "are suffering acute living and health problems" in neighbouring countries, principally in Uganda.

Somali faction leader denies Sudanese embassy was closed

Meanwhile in Mogadishu, a Somali faction has denied a claim by the Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia that Khartoum had closed its embassy in Mogadishu, saying the office was still open and carrying out Sudan's "dark mission" in Somalia.

North Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohammad has accused Sudan of backing his arch-rival, the self-styled "president" of Somalia, Hussein Aideded, who controls south Mogadishu. The Sudanese

embassy is located in south Mogadishu.

Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia, Omer Ali Sayed, told reporters in Addis Ababa on Saturday that Sudan's envoy to Mogadishu had been recalled and the embassy closed.

But a spokesman for Ali Mahdi's faction told AFP Sunday that Sudan posted Khalifa Ibrahim to Mogadishu after recalling his predecessor, Ali Hassan Ali.

"Khalifa Ibrahim is playing a dirty game in Somalia ... Khartoum is systematically giving recognition to Hussein Moham-

mad Aideded's self-declared government and such actions will hamper the future peace process," Mr. Ali Mahdi's spokesman, Abdulkadir Ibrahim, said.

Sudan and Libya are the only countries with diplomatic relationships with Mr. Aideded's "government," which is not recognised by other Somali factions.

"The Khartoum government played a major role in devastating Somalia. Sudan is prolonging civil strife by supporting Mr. Aideded," the spokesman added.

Sudan has denied interfering in Somalia's internal affairs.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 The Show With the Mouse
14:30 Cowboys of the Moo Mesa
15:00 Gillette Sports Special
15:30 Deep Water Haven
16:00 Animal Show
16:30 Ocean Girl
17:15 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:15 French programme
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 Comedy—Murphy Brown
20:30 Babylon 5
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 Emergency Room
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhr
16:07 'Asr
18:57 Maghreb
20:16 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 637485
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armanian International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures around average and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

MIN/Max. temp.

Amman.....17/32
Aqaba.....24/37

Deserts.....17/36
Jordan Valley.....23/38
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 32, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Hama Mansoor.....758863
Dr. Afif Shukri.....898863
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh.....827195
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq.....788285
Firas pharmacy.....661912
Ferdows pharmacy.....778336
Al Asema pharmacy.....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy.....623672
Al Salam pharmacy.....636730
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy.....637660
Najib pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484
Al Quds pharmacy.....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Rathi Atallah.....994424
Khalifeh pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111

Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewage Complaints.....897467
Amman Municipality Complaints.....787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance).....121
Overseas Calls.....010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs.....623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television.....773111
Radio Jordan.....774111
Water Authority.....680100
J. Electricity Authority.....815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information.....08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Luzmila.....630195
Hussein Medical Centre.....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6
Alkheir Maternity.....642441/2

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:05Damascus (RJ)
08:05Sanaa (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:45New Delhi (RJ)
10:20Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:25Beirut (RJ)
15:25Kuwait (RJ)
17:10Cairo (RJ)
17:30London (RJ)
17:40New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:30Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
19:35Tunis (RJ)
19:55Milan (RJ)
22:15Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:20Dubai (add) (RJ)

Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani.....607071
Shmeisani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital.....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali.....666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....777101/3
Al-Basrah.....775111/26
Army, Marka.....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital.....60240/50
Amal Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:05Damascus (RJ)
08:05Sanaa (RJ)
09:30Jeddah (RJ)
09:45New Delhi (RJ)
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04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
04:20Dubai (add) (RJ)

14:10Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
14:10Muscat, Bahrain (GF)
15:05Vienna (OS)
16:50Tel Aviv (LY)
19:50Dubai (EK)
20:15Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10Beirut (ME)
22:15Cairo (MS)
23:30Athens (OA)
01:20Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
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08:05Sanaa (RJ)
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09:45New Delhi (RJ)
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10:25Beirut (RJ)
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LECTURE

"A Vision into the Past: The Jordanian State" in Arabic, by Dr. Ali Jarrah of Bir Zeit University at Abdul Hameed Foundation, Jordan, Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

WHAT'S

the Middle East
Paintings by Raja Nouri
Arabic art
House
Zarqa
the French
Jabal W
p.m.



MUTAWI MEETS WITH CUBAN OFFICIAL: Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi receives the Cuban deputy foreign minister in his office and discusses means of bolstering bilateral relations in several fields (Petra photo)

Practical aspects of modern media education explored during conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The conference on "Communication and Diplomacy: New Horizons in the Information Age", organised by the Institute for Diplomacy, resumed yesterday with the focus on academic and practical aspects of modern media.

Adel Ziadat, head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University, lectured other media educators attending the conference, hosted in cooperation with Arab-U.S. Association of Communication Educators (AUSACE), on the difficulties facing graduates of Jordan's only mass communication programme, established in 1984 at Yarmouk University.

Following a study of 60 graduates, Dr. Ziadat said he found that the majority of the department's 1,500 graduates had managed to find work, even though only two major daily newspapers existed in Jordan until recently.

"This is partly due to the establishment of weekly and party papers," he said, "but the public sector does not seem to appreciate these graduates."

He added that nearly all surveyed graduates said the theoretical courses on media were the least useful during their course of study and indicated that they preferred to have more opportunities for practical training.

The weekly newspapers, which employ the majority of Yarmouk's graduates,

are currently the target of an official attempt to subdue Jordan's weekly newspaper industry, which has been, in many cases, revolutionary in exposing official corruption and sensitive national issues. At the same time, the weeklies have also been chastised for exceeding the bounds of public decency.

However, Dr. Ziadat said journalism courses should be constructed to better educate students on how to deal with sensitive issues, so they can better pursue democratic freedoms without raising public ire.

A second professor of journalism and mass communications discussed the necessity of training students on state-of-the-art equipment currently used in media institutions.

"Without proper resources, students cannot communicate or compete," said Douglas Barthlow, a professor at the Department of Mass Communication at Georgia State University.

Mass communications programmes in the United States rely on the good will of media institutes to "hand down" used equipment for practical training, he said, but this leaves students ill-equipped to compete for and acquire professional experience after graduation.

Dr. Barthlow recommended that communications staff at universities should improve their "persuasive appeal" to attract more students and, in turn,

funding from university budgets, and suggested that educators should cultivate relationships with the technology industry in order to upgrade existing university communications facilities.

"At Georgia State, we also have instituted a 'sharing' programme — the government provides funding for four public television stations with seven studios," he said.

"Students are available to work for live broadcasts and recorded programming, and gain the experience they need to find jobs later."

Speakers from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, the U.K., and the U.S. yesterday also delivered papers on "International Communication and the New World Order" and "Media Challenges in the Next Century".

Today following the conference, a training workshop for journalists is being held, entitled "Specialised Reporting for Senior Journalists: Coverage of International Issues."

The three-day conference is hosted under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and is exploring eight main themes through 40 working papers, addressing topics relating to international communication, the new world order, communication, freedom of expression, and the use of communication techniques in education and training.

Joint Aqaba-Eilat airport expected to benefit tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji said Jordan is expected to reap great benefits from the "peace airport" at Aqaba due to a large number of expected tourists, even though their destination may be Israel.

Mr. Biltaji said the tourist groups may also stay in Jordan, in general, and in Aqaba, in particular, thus bringing in more revenues.

He added that additional personnel will be employed to deal with the increase in air traffic operations.

Last week, Jordan and Israel signed a formal agreement for the joint use of Aqaba International Airport, serving the twin Red

Sea resorts of Eilat and Aqaba.

The agreement represents the pilot project of plans to construct a joint airport, which was outlined in the 1994 peace treaty.

Under the agreement, Jordanian and Israeli security agents can accompany passengers between Aqaba and Eilat without stopping at the border.

Arab Israelis constitute 90 per cent of the total number of Israeli tourists, who stay for an average of one day, spending between \$60-70 each, normally on transport and fees for entry to Petra, according to Mr. Biltaji.

The ministry will take

measures to attract more tourists to the ancient city of Petra, he added.

The minister added that there is not a sufficient number of hotels for the expected numbers of tourists.

The western coast of the Dead Sea boasts 9,000 hotel rooms, while on the eastern coast there are only 150 rooms, he explained.

Jordan must set up 10,000 hotel rooms on the east coast of the Dead Sea by the year 2005 to accommodate the large number of expected tourists from Europe coming for therapeutic purposes at spas and from mineral mud, he concluded.

Meeting to examine UNRWA cuts to open tomorrow

Sit-in held to protest reduction of refugee services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amidst wide-range protests by Palestinian refugees over a decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce its services in the Middle East, representatives of donor nations and Arab countries hosting the refugees are opening a meeting in Amman tomorrow to examine the agency's services and its fiscal budget, which this year is short \$20 million.

UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen is expected to discuss the agency's position on the

deficit and cuts in educational and health services, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Sunday.

UNRWA recently announced a decision to freeze appointments of teachers, reduce health services, and impose tuition fees on refugee school children.

A group representing UNRWA's employees and refugee camp residents Sunday held a brief sit-in in front of UNRWA field office headquarters in Amman to protest against the agency's reduction of

services. The group handed a memorandum to UNRWA officials demanding that the agency rescind its austerity measures.

In their memorandum, the group said it was holding the agency responsible for the consequences of its decision on the Arab host states.

Jordan's position was expressed by the head of the Palestinian Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry Ibrahim Tarshihi, who last month said the Kingdom rejects any reduction of the agency's

services in its fields of operations, which include Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and urged donor nations to contribute more to alleviate the agency's financial difficulties.

The government intends to coordinate on this issue with the other Arab states hosting refugees during the Sept. 9 meeting, he said.

Last week the 11 Jordanian opposition political parties issued a statement attacking the agency's decision and accusing it of

being part of a plot to settle the refugees and eliminate the Palestinian problem.

Last month, a delegation representing Palestinian refugees living in Jordan protested to UNRWA about the decision to reduce services, and presented UNRWA Director Gunnar Lofberg a memorandum expressing the refugees' stand.

Tuesday's meeting will follow-up one held last June, during which donors contributed \$4.1 million to UNRWA's \$352 million 1997 budget.

Princess Basma discusses national identity

OSLO (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma recently addressed a U.N.-organised meeting in Oslo on culture and development, at which she presented a working paper stressing the need for the preservation of national identity and culture.

Princess Basma said the culture of a nation cannot be isolated from external influences, which help a nation effect desirable changes and promote socio-economic development.

She emphasised that women play a central role in promoting cultural interaction.

Underlining the need for women's participation in ensuring sustainable development, the Princess said both genders play complementary parts and share interests in social, economic, and political fields.

The Princess paid tribute to the late Princess Diana, who she said had won the attention and respect of people around the world for her humanitarian activities.

She also paid tribute to the late Mother Theresa, describing her as another model person who won the appreciation of the whole world due to her charitable services.

Princess Basma also took part in the U.N.-sponsored Steering Committee, on Culture and Development, which met in Oslo to prepare a five-year working plan.

The U.N. Committee on Culture and Development was created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation upon a decision made by the U.N. General Assembly in 1991.

Japan extends grant to Jordan to support food production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has provided a 250 million yen (\$2.2 million) grant to Jordan's agricultural sector to help increase food production, according to a statement released by the Japanese embassy Sunday.

This grant brings such aid to a total of 2.1 billion yen (\$18.2 million) since 1994, the statement continued.

An agreement to this effect was signed Sunday by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Humaidi and the Ambassador of Japan Takayuki Kimura, it continued.

This contribution is the fifth in a series of the Aid for Increased Food Production Scheme, implemented in 1994 when Japan extended two grants to Jordan totalling 900 million yen (\$7.8 million). In 1995, Japan gave a 550 million yen (\$4.8 million) grant and in 1996, 400 million yen (\$3.5 million), the statement read.

The latest donation will help finance the purchase of fertilisers and, agricultural machinery, including a disk plough, dumping trailers, a crawler-type tractor, and spare parts, to assist the ministry to increase food production and achieve



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Humaidi and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura Sunday sign an agreement authorising a grant worth \$2.2 million for the agricultural sector (Petra photo)

higher self-sufficiency, the release stated.

The countries that qualify for this type of aid are developing nations that exert self-reliant efforts to increase food production. In implementation of the aid for increased food production, Jordan is to set aside, in local currency, an amount equivalent to the

value of the aid offered by Japan to be utilised for social and economic development projects in the country, the statement said.

In fiscal year 1996 (April 1, 1996-March 31, 1997), Japan extended a total of 5 billion yen (\$43 million) in grants to several projects, including the Sheikh Hussein Bridge Construction

Project and the improvement of water supply system to Greater Amman. Japan also provided a soft loan amounting to 7 billion yen (\$60.8 million) for human resources development project and approximately \$20 million in grants for technical cooperation, the statement concluded.

Majali visits Yemen

SANAA (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali arrived in Sanaa Sunday on a three-day visit, starting upon his arrival that he carried a message to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with pan-Arab issues and Jordan-Yemen relations.

Dr. Majali and his Yemeni counterpart Faraj Ben Ghanem are expected to endorse agreements and protocols on promoting cooperation in economic trade, information, culture, health, agriculture, and other fields.

The higher committee holds periodic meetings to discuss increasing the two countries' cooperation in all fields, Dr. Majali said.

The higher committee will examine recommendations and resolutions referred by the technical and preparatory committees, which convened in Sanaa prior to the higher committee meeting.

Following his visit to Yemen, Dr. Majali is scheduled to go to Sudan, where he will co-chair the higher Jordanian-Sudanese joint committee meeting with the Sudanese prime minister.

New chief justice urges judicial reevaluation to 'uphold' justice

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly-appointed chief of the Higher Court of Justice, Judge Farouq Kilani, stressed the need to take an initiative to restructure and upgrade the performance of the judiciary as an important step in upholding justice.

In an interview that appeared in Al Arab Al Youm daily on Sunday, Mr. Kilani said the restructuring of the judiciary is more important than political, economic, and social matters "since it is directly linked to the prevalence of justice."

"When a citizen loses the sense of justice, security is affected; and if security is affected, then the state loses its raison d'être," Mr. Kilani said.

"If an initiative to restructure the judiciary is not taken, then the citizens' confidence in the law and the system as a whole will be shaken," he continued.

Justice, Mr. Kilani added, can only be achieved through a progressive, independent and free system. "The problems (in the judicial system) are many and grave. They cannot be solved by sedatives. What is required are radical solutions," he said.

Judge Kilani criticised the structure of tribunals in Jordan, "which are based on old theories inherited from the Ottoman era."

Criminal cases, for example, are heard in three different tribunals. "This has no [logical] explanation. This kind of structure is not based on or related to legislative considerations," Mr. Kilani commented

on independence of the judiciary as a safeguard from interferences.

"[Independence of the judiciary] is not a privilege for the judge. It is a preservation of the rights of the individuals. This independence should not, however, be some kind of a protection for the judge's misbehaviour and his mistakes."

"But the independence of the judiciary [should be] a constitutional guarantee that is legislated to protect the integrity of justice against interference," he said.

He said he regretted that there exists no clear and comprehensive concept of judicial independence.

"If someone commits a crime, for instance, then his friends and relatives will come to his rescue and ask influential persons to intervene on his behalf," he said.

"These practices happen on a daily basis. It is a catastrophe that is affecting not only the independence of the judiciary but justice itself," he added.

Commenting on recent calls for the establishment of a constitutional court, Judge Kilani said the constitution should be amended for the court to be established.

Judge Kilani also complained of the slow process of trying cases in courts.

"This is a phenomenon of backwardness. It is not acceptable anymore that trials be postponed tens of times," he said.

"If cases are dormant for a few years, then this means there is something wrong in the judicial procedure."

According to the civil

court code enacted in 1988, the period in which a case is tried should not exceed 15 days.

This provision, however, has never been implemented, Mr. Kilani said.

"This provision should have been accompanied by other provisions, especially [addressing] the need to hire more judges and lessen the number of cases each judge looks into every day," he added.

Postponement of cases is carried out for trivial reasons, he remarked.

A postponement could result because "the lawyer wants to consult with his client" or because he is "preoccupied in another court" or "in a private matter," or for "travel reasons" or "health reasons," he said.

"These and other reasons give an impression of lack of seriousness," Mr. Kilani said.

The law did not put constraints on postponements and did not define the rules by which these postponements should be administered.

"After ten years of the issuance of the law, its provisions did not prove it could solve the problem of procrastination in trying cases," he said.

"The law also does not give the judge control over the proceedings of cases. The defendant's lawyer can prevail over the case, despite the fact that the modern legislations are more in favour of giving the judge more authority on how to run the case."

"In this atmosphere, there is no space for [justice], nor are there the means to implement a law," he concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

* "A Vision into the Palestinian Status" (in Arabic) by Dr. Ali Jarbawi of Bir Zeit University at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalkout of Syria, and Najia Mebadji at the South Hall.
* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at

PLAY

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.
* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

FILM

* "Les Noces Rouges" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, at 8:30 p.m.

PLAY

* Children's play — "The Treasure" at the Royal Cultural Centre, at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.
* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

Jordan Times Facsimile Number 696-183

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN
The Embassy of India regrets to inform with profound grief of the sad demise of **MOTHER TERESA** on Friday September 5, 1997.
A condolence book will remain open at the Embassy located at First Circle, Jabal Amman, on Monday and Tuesday (8th & 9th September) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Diana's death holds up mirror to modern Britain

LONDON (R) — The tidal wave of national grief for Princess Diana bears eloquent testimony to the love of millions of Britons for the "people's princess."

But does it also speak volumes about how Britain itself has changed in the 16 years since Diana joined the royal family? No one has been more surprised by the outpouring of sorrow than the millions of Britons who laid flowers, wept openly and lined the streets to mourn a woman that few of them can ever have met.

Surely after such a display of raw emotion Britain can no longer be mocked as the land of the stiff upper lip where people take their innermost feelings to their deathbed.

"We have seen ourselves in a new light this week, as we have dropped the old British reserve and learned to mourn in public."

"It has left a strange, previously unseen atmosphere in the country. Maybe history, maybe hysteria. We cannot know till it is all over," The Guardian newspaper commented.

A lot of the reaction is due to the modern, unstuffy personality of Diana herself, an icon of beauty and compassion.

Many of the mourners said they would never have gone to such lengths for other members of the royal family, who, by their slowness to connect with the spontaneously growing crowds, only served to underscore Diana's empathy with ordinary people.

"There is now a huggy generation of the princess's contemporaries, who are scornful of protocol, unimpressed by precedent, and who regard emotional soul-baring as the only way to deal with any misery," Valerie Grove wrote in the Times.

"They overflow with helpless indignation and sympathy and need an outlet. 'Why can't the queen react?' they asked. The response 'the queen does not react' was incomprehensible to them," she added.

By pointing up the royal family as out of date and out of touch, Diana's death could even turn out to be as politically important as the Labour landslide that ended 18 years of Conservative rule at the May 1 election, Ms. Grove argued.

"The princess' funeral may well be a watershed, at least as important as the 1997 general election result, in having generated this attention to the popular will," she said.

Andrew Marr, the respected editor of the Independent newspaper, also saw the reaction to the princess' death as more than a "bubble" of emotion that would suddenly go pop and disappear. People were not simply saying goodbye to a well-loved figure, he wrote.

"There's more, I think millions of people find her, in death, representative of something important in the Britain of the late 1990s, and are marking it, even celebrating it," Mr. Marr wrote.

Through her struggle to find happiness, her style, her emotional openness and her personal rebellion against royal conventions, Diana became an emblem of the generational changes sweeping Britain.

"We have become a more emotional, less deferential, more plural people. We are not the same ordered society that was built in the post-war period and which the royal family used

to be an emblem of," Mr. Marr said.

As such, he theorised, the huge crowds that turned out for Diana were perhaps overthrowing something, or at least marking its downfall — and that something was the country Britain used to be.

"The gathering of crowds can signal that the country is looking itself in the face. This is what we have been doing in Britain..."

"In a wholly unexpected way, the mourning has become the catalyst for the country noticing quite how much it has changed," Mr. Marr wrote.

Diana has been buried in the garden of her childhood after an emotional funeral at which her brother appealed to Britain's royal family to give her sons freedoms she was denied. Earl Spencer's implicit call for change in the protocol-bound monarchy to secure the futures of Prince William and Prince Harry, whose father Prince Charles is heir to the throne, was echoed in the British press Sunday.

"A clever monarch uses protocol to invigorate the institution. When that means change it is welcomed, not feared. But the case for change has become irresistible," the Independent Sunday wrote in an editorial.

"If the royal family does not start to devolve authority and responsibility from the queen to her son quite soon, his son might find that it hardly exists when it is his turn to inherit it. Prince William's mother would have hated that," the paper said.

The funeral Saturday of the "people's princess" followed a week in which the royal family faced widespread criticism for appearing remote from the mood of national grief.

In the funeral service that helped purge the nation's grief, Princess Diana's sons wept as rock superstar Elton John sang a new version of his eulogy to spent youth.

The princes wept openly, unimpressed of royal reserve, as the singer performed an updated version of Candle in the Wind, his song for film legend Marilyn Monroe, whose own tragic life, like Princess Diana's, ended at the age of 36.

The royal family had distanced itself from Princess Diana since her acrimonious divorce 13 months ago from Prince Charles. Saturday was a day of forgiveness. But in death she was accepted back into the fold.

Queen Elizabeth, deeply hurt by accusations that the family had not grieved enough in public for Princess Diana, bowed her head in tribute as the coffin passed Buckingham Palace.

Royal protocol was breached with the monarch's personal standard being lowered over the palace. It was replaced by a national flag hoisted to half mast.

The Express On Sunday said that Princess Diana's funeral had a healing effect.

"In a curious way, the princess's terrible death has brought us closer to the royal family. When we called upon the queen to share our grief, Her Majesty did not hesitate to do so."

"The queen showed that she, like Princess Diana, was human. On the day of the funeral — an extraordinary day which has changed the United Kingdom forever — the British monarchy was firmly reunited with the people."



Thousands of mourners try to get close to the floral memorial to Princess Diana outside the gates of Kensington Palace Sunday. Kensington Palace was home to the Princess of Wales who was buried yesterday at the family estate at Althorp. There was a notable increase in the amount of mourners paying their respects at the palace Sunday (Reuters photo)

Australian poll: Support for monarchy hits all-time low since Diana's death

SYDNEY (AFP) — Support for the British monarchy in Australia is at an all-time low since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, according to a poll released Sunday that indicated mounting support for a republic.

The Morgan poll, conducted three days after Diana was killed in a car accident in Paris last week, showed support for the royals fell to 37 per cent from 42 per cent last year.

And more than one in five Australians said it was Diana's death which made them think less highly of the monarchy, which has been criticised for its failure to promptly respond to the outpouring of grief since the tragedy.

The Morgan poll said 53 per cent of Australians questioned were now in favour of a republic, compared with 47 per cent in the last survey in June last year. However, a key government figure said Sunday the anti-royal sentiment that emerged over the royal family's handling of Diana's

death would not affect Australia's republic debate.

"I think it was very much a within the Great Britain family sentiment, and there seems to have been ebb and flow during the week," said the leader of the upper house, Senate, Robert Hill.

"Here I think we feel a little more distant from the aspects of the royal family itself," he said in a television interview.

Mr. Hill expressed support for a future Australian republic, but said people would need to be confident about what form it would take before the changes went ahead.

"I think it would be good for Australia sometime down the path to have an Australian as head of state, but I've never marched in the street. I think there are issues of higher priority," he said.

Mr. Hill also appealed for the upcoming constitutional convention on the republic not to descend into a tiresome "slugging match" between the opposing camps. And the convention's de-

puty chairman Barry Jones said it was a relief that the convention had been postponed, instead of being held soon after the death of Diana, as had been planned.

Mr. Jones, a prominent republican, said it would be difficult for convention delegates to be objective on the question of a republic in a climate of grief.

The constitutional convention was to have been held later this year but has been postponed until some time next year.

The Morgan poll also identified a fierce backlash against the media, with many Australians saying they would now think twice about purchasing magazines which published invasive photographs.

Of the 44 per cent of respondents who said they read the tabloids and women's magazines, one in three readers said they would read less from now on.

An overwhelming majority — 76 per cent — also said they were in favour of tighter laws to protect the privacy of celebrities.

Japan eases tension with China

DALIAN (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Sunday wrapped up a delicate China visit that failed to reassure Beijing over Tokyo's policy on Taiwan, but still managed to ease tensions between the two countries.

Originally a trip to celebrate the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, Mr. Hashimoto's visit was dominated by Beijing's concerns over the U.S.-Japan military alliance — concerns that the prime minister admitted he had been unable to fully alleviate.

"At our summit meeting, I explained the basic position we have to Premier Li Peng (Thursday) ... We exchanged differences of view and in this sense had a good dialogue," he told a press conference in Beijing Saturday.

However, the Chinese leaders did not agree with Tokyo's position and remained "concerned," Mr. Hashimoto said, adding the Japanese side had pledged to boost transparency on security issues.

The dispute over Taiwan was sparked by Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, who caused a furore just weeks before Mr. Hashimoto's visit by admitting that a potential conflict between

China and Taiwan was included in U.S.-Japanese security guidelines.

Beijing, which considers Taiwan a renegade province, angrily condemned the existence of such plans as gross interference in its internal affairs.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin had urged Japan Friday to respect China's stance on the Taiwan issue, to which Mr. Hashimoto responded by reaffirming that Tokyo would never support Taiwanese independence.

Some analysts suggested the Japanese premier's frank and open admission of "differences" with Beijing reflected a growing mutual trust between Chinese and Japanese leaders.

Japanese officials quoted Mr. Jiang as telling Mr. Hashimoto that his trip had helped "ease the feelings of the Chinese people."

Japan is China's largest creditor and Beijing is just as keen as Tokyo to see relations return to an even keel, especially with Mr. Hashimoto heading for certain reelection as head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party later this week.

The Japanese and Chinese premiers agreed to hold top-level talks at least once a year, as Mr. Hashimoto also

noted that a "good and stable" triangular relationship between China, Japan and the United States was "indispensable" to global peace and security.

In recent years, Sino-Japanese ties have been rocked by Beijing's nuclear weapons testing, a row over a group of disputed islands and Mr. Hashimoto's visit to a shrine where convicted Japanese war criminals are venerated.

Mr. Li Peng is set to visit Japan in November, followed by Mr. Jiang Zemin next year.

Mr. Hashimoto wrapped up his visit in the cities of Shenyang and Dalian, becoming the first post-war Japanese premier to visit northeastern China where Japan once established a puppet state.

Mr. Hashimoto said a statement of "deep remorse" in 1995 by then Premier Tomiichi Murayama reflected Japan's official view and his own on the country's wartime atrocities.

During his stopover in Shenyang, Mr. Hashimoto visited a museum commemorating the Manchurian Incident on Sept. 18, 1931, when Japan launched a full-scale military offensive against China.

Heavy weapons fire reported in Brazzaville

KINSHASA (AFP) — Exchanges of heavy weapons fire in Brazzaville between government troops and militia loyal to Congo's former military ruler could be heard here Sunday morning from across the Congo River.

The shooting, which had quietened down in recent days, had intensified late Saturday, and the sound of shelling could be heard clearly in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On Sunday morning the

shelling was less intense. Forces backing President Pascal Lissouba have been fighting the "Cobra" militia of former military ruler General Denis Sassou Nguesso since June 5.

The clashes between the rival political armies have devastated Brazzaville and left at least 4,000 people dead, according to official figures, since Mr. Lissouba sought to disarm Mr. Sassou Nguesso's men ahead of a presidential election scheduled for July 27 and then postponed.

Other sources put the toll at up to 7,000, while more than half a million residents have fled the embattled city on the banks of the Congo River.

Meanwhile official Radio Congo Sunday confirmed news of a fire that broke out in a munitions depot Saturday in Congo's second city Pointe-Noire, but said there had been no casualties.

A witness reached by telephone Saturday night from Kinshasa said the fire in the city of Tie-Tie near the city's airport was an accident.

The fire, which set off huge explosions, had caused widespread panic. On Sunday morning Radio Congo said the fire had been started in a domestic kitchen at the air base before spreading to the munitions depot.

Around 20 explosions were heard in the town, the radio said, adding that army firemen had brought the blaze under control and that no one had been hurt.

So far the fighting which is ravaging Brazzaville has not spread to Pointe-Noire.

Kabila's Congo softens on blocked U.N. mission

KINSHASA (R) — President Laurent Kabila's government has signalled a softening of its position on a blocked U.N. investigation into alleged massacres in the former Zaire.

In an interview on state television Saturday night the minister of foreign affairs, Bizima Karaha, said the latest communication from the U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, led him to believe the mission would be able to resume its work.

"We have just received a communication from the U.N. secretary general indicating the mission will conform to the norms and rules of the government," Mr. Bizima Karaha said.

"That's why I think the mission will now be able to continue its work," he added.

U.N. sources said the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had received an ultimatum from U.N. Headquarters in New York which had prompted

the response.

The sources said while negotiations with the government over the troubled probe were far from over, the softening of the government's position would at least allow members of the investigating team to remain in the country.

The team arrived in the capital, Kinshasa, two weeks ago but only three days after they began work. Mr. Kabila's government imposed fresh conditions for the probe to go ahead.

Mr. Kofi Annan appointed the latest investigation mission after he gave in to Mr. Kabila's demands about the composition and mandate of a previous team, led by Chilean Roberto Garretón.

Mr. Kabila objected to a report by Mr. Garretón identifying what the Chilean said were more than 100 sites where thousands of Rwandan refugees were killed, and blamed the deaths on Mr. Kabila's troops.

Tens of thousands protest at ETA killing in Spain

MADRID (R) — Tens of thousands of Spaniards took to the streets Saturday to condemn the fatal car-bombing of a policeman, the first death blamed on Basque guerrilla group ETA since the July killing of a young politician.

In more than 100 towns and villages across the troubled Basque region, demonstrators observed five minutes of silence for Daniel Villar Enciso, 39, a National Police Force member. One of the largest gatherings was in his hometown of Basauri.

"This is too much," said Basauri Mayor Roberto Otxandio, choked with tears. "This people want peace."

Villar was killed Friday night when a bomb

planted under the seat of his car exploded outside his home in Basauri, near the Basque industrial centre of Bilbao in northern Spain. Engulfed in flames, he frantically waved his arms in a desperate plea for help, witnesses said.

He was still clinging to life, his body badly burned and mangled, when neighbours pulled him from the burning wreckage. He was taken to a Bilbao hospital and pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

Villar's grieving wife screamed, "my God my God" as she was being taken to see his body. A funeral service was held Saturday in Bilbao, and Villar was to be laid to rest Sunday in his widow's hometown of Orreaga, south of Madrid. Spanish leaders an-

grily condemned the attack.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar called Villar's killing a "terrorist assassination" and vowed to use all legal means to put a stop to separatist violence.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, in a telegram to Villar's family, denounced it as a "criminal act" and offered their condolences.

A spokesman for the Basque regional government called the ETA separatist rebels "savages."

Villar, married with two children aged 10 and 11, was the 11th person killed this year in attacks linked to ETA, which has frequently targeted members of Spain's security forces in its violent 29-year struggle for an

independent Basque homeland.

Villar's killing came almost two months after ETA kidnapped and shot Miguel Angel Blanco, a 29-year-old Basque town councillor, when the government refused its demand for ETA prisoners dispersed throughout the country to be transferred to prisons in the Basque region.

An estimated six million protested against that attack in the largest display of anger of Spain's recent history.

In Blanco's hometown of Ermua, thousands came out again Saturday, echoing the emotional demonstrations two months ago.

Chinese police sent in as birth control officials, residents clash

HONG KONG (AFP) — Clashes have erupted between residents and birth control officials in the southern Chinese city of Gaizhou over fines imposed for breaking the country's draconian one-child policy, a report here said Sunday.

About 1,000 police and paramilitary officers were rushed to the city to quell the clashes which left one official with internal bleeding, the report in the independent Ming Pao daily said quoting sources.

The trouble flared in a sloop on the city's Zhaojiang County to check for families with more than one child and to ensure women had been sterilised or fitted with Intra-Uterine Contraceptive Devices (IUDs), the paper said.

Three men were arrested when they tried to warn residents of the officials' arrival. China's one-child policy, brought in the late 1970s, is strictly enforced with penalties of heavy fines.

China's Communists assemble for key plenum

BEIJING (R) — China's Communist elite has gathered for a three-day plenum and the climax of a struggle for top jobs in the party, party sources said Sunday.

The party elite, including some 200 members of its Central Committee, veteran revolutionaries and the all-powerful politburo, opened their meeting Saturday in the party's Jingxi Guesthouse in western Beijing, party sources said.

The agenda for the meeting includes approval of a blueprint for policy into the 21st century, for party chief and state President Jiang Zemin to present to the opening of the party's five-yearly congress on Sept. 12.

The plenum will give its final approval for the dates of the congress, to be attended by 2,048 delegates from across China and expected to last one week. It will be followed by three days of meetings starting on Sept. 9 to make final preparations for the congress.

It is also expected to approve the expulsion from the party of the former Beijing municipal party chief, Chen Xitong, who was purged from the politburo in 1995 for his involvement in a multi-million-dollar corruption scandal in China's capital.

However, the most crucial outstanding issue will be the plenum's decisions on personnel changes in the highest ranks of the party that has ruled China since 1949. Those changes will be endorsed at the congress.

The fact that the struggle for position had dragged on into the final days before a congress was almost unprecedented in the Communist era and reflected the party's painful adjustment from the era of one-man rule to a more collective leadership, party sources said.

"In the past one person could decide everything, now Mr. Jiang Zemin can't do this," said one well-placed party source. "He is not a Mao Tsetong, he is not a Deng Xiaoping."

The congress will be the first in nearly two decades to take place without paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, whose death in February at the age of 92 turned the spotlight on his chosen successor, Mr. Jiang, 69.

The battle over personnel changes has traditionally been resolved a few weeks before a congress when the party elite gather in July and August at the northern beach resort of Beidaihe to hammer out differences and jostle for jobs.

"They have still not decided on key personnel changes," another party source said Sunday. "In the past this was already decided at Beidaihe."

World News

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'SAINT OF THE GUTTERS': Nuns at Missionaries of Charity headquarters watch the body of Mother Teresa being transferred to St. Thomas Church in Calcutta Sunday where it will lie for a week of public viewing. Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her selfless devotion to the poor, died on Friday of heart attack

Union leader put up as candidate in S. Korean presidential election

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean dissidents and labour activists presented union leader Kwon Young-Kil Sunday as their candidate to run for the presidency in December.

Mr. Kwon, head of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), was nominated to represent the National Alliance for Democracy and Unification of Korea (NADUK) and union groups at a meeting of NADUK and KCTU leaders Sunday.

The NADUK is an umbrella group of South Korean dissidents who supported a wave of labour unrest and demonstrations earlier this year by Mr. Kwon against an unpopular labour law.

Mr. Kwon, a former journalist, gave no official commitment over his candidacy, but he has called for the active participation of union groups in political affairs to enhance their rights and welfare.

His group claims more than 500,000 members who

have allied with the bigger and less militant Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) to secure an upper hand in labour activities.

There was no official FKTU reaction over Mr. Kwon's candidature, which came on the heels of a serious in-house strife in the ruling New Korea Party (NKP).

Last Friday, NKP presidential candidate Lee Hoi-Chang suffered a humiliating setback in a parliamentary by-election, which was widely seen here as a litmus test for December's presidential polls.

The by-election in the Southern Anyang constituency showed a conservative opposition candidate winning 57 per cent of the vote, far ahead of a ruling party candidate.

But despite the outcome of Friday's by-election, analysts remained sceptical as to whether divided opposition parties could put their ambitions and differences aside to field a single candidate for the December polls.

Top opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung of the National Congress for New Politics has topped opinion polls, but the margin was not big enough to win a comfortable victory in the four-way presidential race.

Mr. Kim Dae-Jung has yet to compromise with rival opposition candidate Kim Jong-Pil, head of the United Liberal Democratic Party (ULDP), a former ally of South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

Mr. Lee's presidential bid also faced a crisis after popular Kyonggi Province Governor Rhee In-Je threatened to run independently for the presidency.

On Saturday, the governor said he would make a final decision this week over his political future.

Seoul Mayor Cho Soon has been listed as third contender in opinion polls since he jumped into the presidential race last month, eroding the power base of both opposition and government candidates.

Dalai Lama to set up office in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — The Taiwanese government in a low-key move has quietly given approval to the Dalai Lama and his Tibetan government in exile to set up an office in Taipei, it was reported here Sunday.

The inauguration of the office will mark a milestone in ties between Taiwan and Tibet, but could further harm already frosty relations with Beijing, the United Daily News said.

"It will help facilitate the exchange of Han and Tibet cultures and spread Buddhist doctrines here," Kao Koon-lian, chairman of Taiwan's cabinet-level Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Commission, was quoted as saying.

Han Chinese are the majority ethnic culture in both Taiwan and China, which split at the end of a civil war in 1949.

There are about 500,000 Buddhists following various Tibetan sects on the island.

In a bid to downplay the move, the office will be set up under a 30 million Taiwan dollar (\$1.05 million) foundation donated by local Buddhists.

"Only a little more than one million Taiwan dollars was contributed by the Tibetan government in exile," Master Tao Kuang of the Buddhist Association said, while the remainder was donated by dozens of local followers.

Master Tao Kuang declined to identify the contributors, but he maintained "not even one penny was from the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan's official title)."

The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan spiritual leader, will be the honorary chairman of the foundation.

The Dalai Lama captivated the hearts of Taiwanese on his six-day visit to Taiwan in March, receiving an estimated 18 million Taiwan dollars in donations from pious Buddhist devotees.

His visit included meetings with Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui and other officials on the island, in a move which sparked fury from China. And he repeatedly called for a Tibetan office to be set up on the island.

Beijing accused the Dalai Lama of trying to "trick" the international community, and charged that Mr. Lee was acting to split the motherland.

China considers Taiwan, where Nationalist troops sought refuge from the Communist forces of Mao Tse-tong after the civil war, a renegade province.

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in northern India since the crushing of an anti-Chinese uprising in Tibet in 1959.

Biko's death under S. Africa's Truth Commission spotlight

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (AFP) — Twenty years after Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko died in a police cell of severe brain injury, the lid may finally be lifted on the brutal interrogation that ended the life of one of the country's most gifted leaders.

Five apartheid-era policemen will from Wednesday appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in this south coast city to plead for amnesty for their role in his killing.

To succeed, they have to show a political motive and make full disclosure of the events surrounding Biko's death.

A fiery orator, Biko was particularly targeted by security police because of the leading role he played in founding the Black Consciousness Movement, which militantly opposed the apartheid regime on grounds that it created unfair

racial divisions to perpetuate economic inequality.

He modelled his philosophy on contemporary American theorists of Black Power and an existentialist school of Francophone African writers.

"We are looking forward to a non-racial, just and egalitarian society, in which colour, creed and race shall form no point of reference," he wrote in the 1970s.

He was not to live, however, to see his dream partially realised when the apartheid system was replaced by a non-racial democracy in 1994.

He died on Sept. 12, 1977, "a miserable and lonely death on a mat on a stone floor of a prison cell," according to a lawyer who acted for the Biko family at an inquest into his death.

An autopsy revealed he suffered three blows to the head, which caused damage to his brain and the gradual collapse of his vital organs.

Major Harold Snyman, who led the police interrogation of Biko, claimed the activist had jumped up with a "wild look" in his eyes and attacked the policemen, bumping his head during the scuffle.

In the ensuing days, Maj. Snyman said, Biko developed slurred speech, did not eat and was found to be frothing at the mouth.

Police, however, believed he was "shamming" and kept him naked and shackled before transferring him four days later in the back of a police Land Rover 1,100 kilometres to Pretoria.

On arrival at Pretoria Central Prison on Sept. 12, Biko was roughly dumped on the floor of a cell, where he later died.

Inquest Magistrate Martinus Prins ruled that Biko's death was probably caused by head injuries sustained in a scuffle with security police.

40 Comoros troops reported killed and 100 taken prisoner on Anjouan

DZAOU'DZI (AFP) — Separatists on the breakaway Comoran Island of Anjouan took some 100 soldiers prisoner during last week's government operation in which 40 soldiers were killed, a separatist source here said Sunday.

Sixteen island residents were also killed in the operation, according to French authorities on this nearby French-ruled island Sunday, after 300 Comoran troops were sent to Anjouan Wednesday to put down the sepa-

ratists' revolt.

It was not known whether the dead among the Anjouan islanders were civilians or separatists.

Another 35 were injured and evacuated to Mayotte in serious condition with gunshot wounds.

The figures were the first concrete tolls to come out after the Comoran government in Moroni Saturday acknowledged it had suffered a military defeat on the breakaway island and denounced "external

aggression."

The separatist source said he expected the government troops would be sent back to Moroni "as soon as the political situation is stabilised."

He also said the island Sunday was "calm and under the control of Anjouan forces."

"There are no more pockets of resistance by the Comoran army on the island. The Comoran soldiers who landed have been either killed, taken prisoner or fleeing."

Sinn Fein leader urges U.S. not to extradite 3 fugitives to U.K.

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Irish Republican leader Martin McGuinness urged U.S. authorities Saturday not to allow the extradition to Britain of three fugitives from a Northern Ireland prison.

Mr. McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator in upcoming talks on the future of Northern Ireland, made the plea in a speech to a large audience of mostly Irish Americans in San Francisco.

He and Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), are wrapping up a five-day visit to the United States.

Mr. McGuinness said that, earlier Saturday, he visited three Irish nationalists held at a prison in the San Francisco area. A federal judge last month ordered the three extradited to Northern Ireland to complete jail terms.

Kevin Art, Pol Brennan and Terence Kirby were among 38 prisoners who escaped from Northern

Ireland's Maze Prison in 1983. Britain sought their extradition after they were arrested in California several years ago.

Mr. McGuinness said he hoped the three men's request for bail would be granted later this month.

"I also hope that the authorities here would recognise that the issue of political prisoners is a very, very crucially important confidence-building measure and I hope that the authorities here will recognise that these people should not be sent back to the British jurisdiction," he said.

"I think that the Irish American Community and everyone in San Francisco and the United States interested in justice should move with great speed to assist these people in their hour of need," Mr. McGuinness said. The three men are appealing the judge's decision to a higher court.

The British government, satisfied that the IRA was committed to a ceasefire,

recently invited Sinn Fein to all-party talks on a settlement to years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

Mr. McGuinness said Sinn Fein was going into the negotiations, due to start later this month, "because the British couldn't keep us out of the talks."

One of the reasons Sinn Fein was in the talks was because there was a U.S. president "who was prepared to stand up to the British," Mr. McGuinness said, referring to President Bill Clinton.

"We go forward with confidence," Mr. McGuinness said.

"It's now time for the British government and the (pro-British) Unionists to face up to the reality that there must be change in the north of Ireland," he said in a speech often interrupted by loud applause from the audience.

"We are the vehicle for that change. There can be no internal settlement in the north of Ireland. British rule must end and we are enti-

led to live in a free, united Ireland," he said.

Mr. McGuinness said Sinn Fein was "trying to get the British government to face up to the confidence-building measures, one of the most important of which is the release of all the political prisoners, men and women."

Mr. McGuinness said he hoped Unionist parties, which have not yet agreed to take part in the talks, would do so.

One of Sinn Fein's demands was demilitarisation and the removal of the British army from Northern Ireland, Mr. McGuinness said. Sinn Fein also maintained that the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the province's police force, was unacceptable, he said.

Before Mr. McGuinness' speech, a city official presented him with a key to San Francisco and read a resolution by Mayor Willie Brown proclaiming Saturday "Martin McGuinness day" in the city.

10 die in Royal Brunei Airlines crash in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Six Malaysians and four foreigners were killed Sunday when a Royal Brunei Airlines flight crashed into the side of a hill in thick jungle on the island of Borneo, officials said.

Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister George Chan made the announcement in Miri, an oil town in northern Borneo where the Dornier turboprop crashed Saturday with six Malaysians, two Japanese, a Singaporean and a Sri Lankan on board.

"The aircraft broke into three pieces and was badly ripped in the tail part. However, there seems to be no signs of an explosion," he said.

He said the aircraft hit a few tree tops before slamming into the slope midway up the hill at a height of 50 metres.

"There seems to be no landing area because of the difficult terrain and steep hill. We cannot even put up

a helipad," Mr. Chan added after conducting an aerial inspection of the site.

Among the six Malaysians dead were the two pilots, Captain Mohammad Tamizi Muda and Wong Lien Yit, Bernama news agency said.

The two Japanese passengers were identified as Tamiji Inoue and Sayuri Uemura while the name of passenger from Singapore was Kuek Loy Yeap. The Sri Lankan passenger was identified as D.D. Mendis.

All the bodies had to be winched from the crash site onto a helicopter, he said.

Abdul Rahim, an official from Malaysia Airports BHD, told AFP from Miri that the bodies were taken to Miri Hospital.

Rescuers had reached the crash site on top of the hill by mid-afternoon and were lowered down by air force helicopter, he said earlier.

The 19-seater Dornier 228 aircraft was on a regularly

scheduled flight from the Brunei capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

Royal Brunei Airlines Flight 238 was scheduled to arrive at Miri at 7:38 p.m. Saturday and was last in contact with the Miri airport control tower six minutes later. The flight time is normally 25 minutes.

An air traffic controller at Miri told AFP that the weather at the time of the crash was "fine" despite recent haze over the island and other parts of Malaysia, blamed on forest fires in Indonesia.

"Visibility was clear up to 10 kilometres," he said.

The wreckage of the aircraft was spotted by civil aviation officials early Sunday at Lambir Hill, situated in a forest reserve about 15 kilometres from the town.

Civil Aviation Department chief Zaini Omar was sent to Miri and a Royal Malaysian Air Force rescue

team left on foot for the heavily forested and mountainous area, with backup from civilian and military helicopters.

The aircraft itself was leased by Royal Brunei Airlines from a Miri-based aircraft company, Merpati Intan SDN. BHD.

The German-made turboprop Dornier aircraft is widely used for transport on Borneo, which comprises the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah as well as the Sultanate of Brunei and the Indonesia province of Kalimantan.

Aviation officials said the Dornier was usually a reliable aircraft, able to handle short landings and takeoffs.

This is the sixth air crash in Malaysia this year. The worst was on March 18, when two Royal Malaysian Air Force helicopters crashed in Sipitang, in Sabah, killing all 11 crew members during routine flying.

Crippling polio truce dims Sri Lanka peace prospects

COLOMBO (AFP) — The collapse of a two-day truce initiated by a U.N. agency has dimmed peace prospects in Sri Lanka despite a fresh bid to resume talks with Tamil Tiger guerrillas, analysts here said Sunday.

Heavy fighting has erupted between government troops and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) both on land and at sea shattering the "days of tranquillity" they had declared.

Both sides agreed to hold fire Friday and Saturday to allow the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to carry out a nationwide polio immunisation campaign.

The LTTE ambushed a group of army soldiers in the eastern district of Trincomalee Saturday and killed three of them, the Defence Ministry said adding it was a clear violation of the truce.

"This is a clear case of violation of the period of tranquillity declared by the government," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Hours earlier, navy gun boats and a flotilla of craft from the LTTE clashed off Chalai, in the northeast of the country, leaving several

rebels killed or wounded, official sources said.

Similar ceasefire periods in 1995 and last year held successfully. Military sources said the LTTE attack on troops may have been a result of a breakdown in their communication channels.

Both parties have also agreed not to carry out military operations on Oct. 10 and 11 to allow for the second round of the immunisation programme. Officials, however, said it was unclear if the government would now reconsider its position.

Just before the polio truce was announced, peace prospects were raised by Justice Minister G. L. Peiris who said Thursday the government was contemplating talks with the rebels.

Mr. Peiris said the government was having discussions with its arch political rival, the United National Party (UNP), which holds the balance of power on proposed constitutional reforms, ahead of possible talks with the rebels.

A common stand between the two main majority Sinhalese parties — the UNP and the ruling People's Alliance (PA) — was necessary before negotiations with the rebel LTTE, Mr.

Peiris said.

The minister said the government agreed with the UNP on the need to involve the LTTE in the constitutional reform process which seeks to politically end the fighting by granting greater autonomy to minority Tamils.

The reforms are expected to go before parliament by November and must receive the support of the UNP to be implemented because the ruling party lacks the required two-thirds majority to push them through.

Mr. Peiris's remarks came exactly a week after UNP leader and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe called for talks between the government and the LTTE to end the fighting which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

"We are in principle for talks with the LTTE," Mr. Peiris said. "We are having discussions with the UNP on that issue. We must agree first on what can be offered, how far we are prepared to go."

Mr. Peiris said previous peace bids with the LTTE had failed because the country's UNP and the PA had failed to achieve a consen-

sus on the issue. "A new effort should not fail for the same reason," the minister said.

However, politicians here saw the latest violence as a set back to a fresh peace bid which could fuel hard liners on both sides of the ethnic divide.

There was no immediate reaction from the LTTE to the breakdown of the polio truce, but their London office in a statement received here Saturday said the government was keeping up a ban on medicines to the areas the guerrillas hold.

"The government's blockade is meant to engender war-weariness in the Tamil population hoping to break their will to resist military occupation," the statement said.

Tiger guerrillas are leading a drawn out campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in bitter fighting in the past 25 years.

30 shot dead by Maoist rebels in eastern India

PATNA (R) — Maoist rebels are believed to have shot dead 30 people from a rival faction in an attack on a village in the eastern Indian state of Bihar state, officials said Sunday.

"Exact casualties are not known but initial reports suggest that 30 persons have been killed," D.P. Maheshwari, the state's home (interior) secretary, told Reuters by telephone.

Mr. Maheshwari said he

was trying to confirm the number of deaths with officials who had rushed to the remote spot in deep forest.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) had earlier reported that Maoist rebels killed at least 11 people. But the United News of India (UNI) said at least 30 people were killed in the attack.

Mr. Maheshwari said the armed militants, belonging to the outlawed Maoist Communist Centre (MCC),

attacked a meeting of the rival Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation at Ankudar village in Chattr district, about 275 kilometres from the state capital Patna.

"MCC cadres laid siege of the village and started firing," Mr. Maheshwari said.

The incident took place at 4.00 a.m. Sunday (2230 GMT), he said.

MCC is one of the many Maoist rebel groups that

make up the Naxalite Movement, which started in India in the 1960s among groups which split from the main Communist Party.

The movement is named after the town of Naxalbari in the neighbouring state of west Bengal where it was launched.

The Maoists are waging an armed struggle against the government for radical redistribution of land from the rich to poor farmers.

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Summit has message

A TRILATERAL summit grouping His Majesty King Hussein, President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was held in Cairo yesterday to see what could be done to save the peace process from imminent collapse.

The three leaders knew, and said in so many words in a communiqué, that for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to restart and bear fruit two conditions have to be met. Terrorism has to end, but at the same time Israel has to respect its commitments towards its peace partners, and their legitimate political rights, by at least not imposing collective punishment against them and continuing to build settlements on their land.

Impeccable as this logic is, it may not be accepted by the Likud-led government, which does not see itself on par with the much weaker Palestinians. But the importance of the summit lies not only in the logic that it has presented. Rather, it is in the message which the three Arab leaders have sought to send to both the Israelis and the Americans that the import of the meeting lies.

By lending support to the besieged Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat — not blind support for a brother in need, but support conditioned on the need for all to fight terrorism — Egypt and Jordan are in effect telling Israel that there can be no peace without justice and fairness. In other words, the Arab World will not accept Israeli dictates. To the Americans, who reportedly are touting a new formula to revive peace hopes, the message is essentially the same, though a bit more practical. A new package deal, dubbed Oslo III or otherwise, would be accepted if it covered both Israel's security concerns and Palestinian political demands under the Oslo agreements.

If it is true that the Cairo summit came at the request of Mr. Arafat, following "an important call from President Bill Clinton" who wanted the Palestinian leader to go out of his way to assure the Israeli side on security-related issues, then it has to be assumed that extensive contacts are under way despite the recent cycle of violence in the area. The hope is that such contacts will result in encouraging the U.S. secretary of state to carry a new initiative to break the stalemate on her upcoming visit to the region. But this is contingent on the Netanyahu government's readiness to address serious Arab concerns about its ideology and policies, which have derailed the peace effort thus far. Without meeting the Arabs half way, there will be neither peace nor security for our two peoples.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

INSTEAD OF blaming Yasser Arafat for the renewed suicide attacks in Jerusalem, a writer for Al Arab Al Yawm said that Benjamin Netanyahu should blame himself for his failure to ensure security for the Israelis, as he had promised. Marwan Hazine said Mr. Netanyahu has never thought of arriving at a comprehensive peace with the Palestinians and the other Arab countries and his main concern has been to ensure security for the Israelis at the expense of the Palestinian people's sufferings and deprivation. Since the recent bomb attacks in Israel have proved that Mr. Netanyahu is not capable of guaranteeing peace, he should resign and call for a general election in Israel, demanded the writer. There is no guarantee that the suicide attacks will stop in the future as long as Israel continues to hold on to the occupied Arab lands and continues to exercise repression against the Palestinians, said the writer. Mr. Netanyahu should have realised by now that the Palestinians are determined to regain their homeland or get compensation for their lost property and therefore they are likely to offer sacrifices, like the attacks inside Israel, continued the writer. He said Mr. Netanyahu's decision to send his commandos into the self-rule areas of Palestine to assassinate Hamas leaders can only aggravate the situation and draw more suicide attacks that destabilise the region's stability and security.

A DECISION by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to reduce services to the Palestinian refugees, impose fees on schoolchildren and freeze the appointment of teachers provides a clear sign that the agency harbours evil intentions, said Rashid Hassan, a writer for Al Aswaq. Urging all Arab countries in general and those hosting refugees in particular to stand united and firm against UNRWA's moves, the writer said that the Arab states should insist that the donor nations offer the fund necessary to run the agency's services in its fields of operations. UNRWA's decision can only be interpreted as politically motivated at a time when the Israelis refuse to implement U.N. resolutions concerning the repatriation of refugees, as the peace process is faltering, noted the writer. He said that certain world powers stand behind the agency's decisions at a time when no solution for the refugee problem is in sight. It is incumbent on the Arab countries hosting refugees to urge the donor nations to honour their pledges; the Arab League should raise this question at all world forums and insist that UNRWA's budget be linked directly to that of the U.N. organisation so as to secure funds for the agency's operations, demanded the writer. He said that the refugees should not be exposed to such a situation by UNRWA whose senior officials, instigated by the U.S., are exercising blackmail and pressure on the Palestinians.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Access to WTO — 'negotiate like a big country while enjoying the anonymity of being small'

AS CHINA gears up for World Trade Organisation (WTO) accession, its experience can provide prospective members with some thoughts on the process. China wanted to join the WTO on its own terms, but it lost its first bid to do so as other WTO members, such as the U.S., showed dissatisfaction with what it had to offer. American and Chinese officials will meet in Geneva next month to prepare the grounds for a deal that may be announced when Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin meet in October at the WTO headquarters. Even though an agreement may prove to be difficult to reach within the upcoming month, the process of setting up a strategy that is in progress on both sides of the globe may prove to be educational.

The U.S. wants greater openness from China in services and agriculture and faster timetables for reducing trade barriers, including tariffs, and removing subsidies. Furthermore, the U.S. and the EU are pressuring China to improve its environmental standards, competition policy and workers' rights, all of which seem like reasonable requests. But an article in the Financial Times reveals the paranoia of the West that is associated with what may become known as "The China in the WTO xenophobia," or simply the "China syndrome".

The author of the Financial Times article, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington DC, advises that an entity similar to the Security Council be created at the WTO of which China would immediately qualify to become a member. However, the United States and the European Union (EU) must prepare their joint agenda in advance before China is admitted into this "trade council," the name by which it may be known. Does this seem reminiscent of the U.N.? Of course it does. The more the countries that enter into the WTO the more it is likely that the WTO will be a model of the U.N., with all its idiosyncrasies.

The author also advises against increasing the bureaucracy of the WTO, which is already bloated. However, the WTO may not be able to avoid hiring new staff because China is most likely to ask for Chinese to become one of the official languages of the WTO, thus joining the other working languages of the organisation: English, French and Spanish.

There is also fear that China, once member in the WTO,

would side with the developing world and slow down the transformation process in these countries, in regard to workers' rights, competition policy and environmental controls which the developed countries are pressuring the underdeveloped to abide by, in order to make them lose their comparative advantage.

To make things more interesting, somewhere else in the U.S., Massachusetts to be more precise, a fight is already brewing between this wonderful state which boasts possibly the highest aggregate IQ in the world and some European companies. The state of Massachusetts does not allow companies that have dealt with regimes that have a bad record in human rights to do business within its borders. Some European companies which belatedly discovered this law as they attempted to set up shop in this state are furious and intend to prove that it is in contradiction with the WTO.

According to the principles of the WTO, discrimination that is based on culture is prohibited. The EU may challenge the state of Massachusetts on this basis, and most likely the outcome will be that the U.S. will win and nothing will happen. Additionally, sanctions by the U.S. against countries in the Caribbean that are dealing with Cuba are already a matter of fact.

Yet with the "China syndrome" things are different. China is big; it attracts most of the foreign investments of the developing world, it has a large market and its financial market has recently gained Hong Kong, possibly the most dynamic financial market in the world. Best of all, the people of China are hungry for those expensive toys which industrialisation tends to bring, and they are willing to work long and hard for it.

The rule in trade, like in everything else, is the bigger the better. China hopes for greater access for its goods to the markets of the developed countries. So does Jordan. But the same reasoning probably would not apply to Jordan. The lesson one learns from China is that being small does have some advantages: the big guys do not really care. Therefore, a Jordanian strategy must be put in place: negotiate like a big country while enjoying the anonymity of being small.

In an era of corruption, cleaning up is everyone's business

By Antonio Garrigues Walker

MADRID — "Don't be a thief, don't be a liar, don't be lazy." Under that Jeca saying ("Ama sua, ama lulla, ama quella"), the eighth International Anti-Corruption Conference is being held in Lima from Sept. 7 to 11. The previous conferences (the last in Beijing) passed almost unnoticed. This should not happen again. No more time should be lost.

Corruption has become one of the most worrying and dangerous problems confronting humanity at the beginning of an irreversible and as yet uncontrolled economic and cultural globalisation. It is a problem seriously affecting the credibility of the entire system.

Strange how the minute the Berlin wall fell, corruption seemed to mushroom in all countries and at all levels. Its spread can appear to be concomitant with the slow agony and death of Marxism in the last few decades. Indeed, it has become associated in people's minds with the victory of "liberal" economic systems.

The saddest spectacle has been given (by deed or omission) by some of the political and economic elites of the most democratic nations. Japan, Europe as a whole and North America have displayed a seemingly endless array of financial and business scandals.

These countries' conduct in less developed countries reaches intolerable levels of hypocrisy and double moral standards. In many countries (Germany and Japan among them), despite resolutions of the United Nations on the matter and despite the efforts of the OECD, not only are bribery and the payment of illegal commissions or compensations in foreign countries not penalised, but they receive favourable tax treatment as an efficient way to increase the trade.

James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, has insisted that

the cancer of corruption diverts resources from the poor to the rich, increases the cost of running businesses, distorts public expenditures and deters foreign investors. To that should be added the existence of 91 tax havens and countless avenues for laundering dirty money without difficulty or risk. Sometimes one has the feeling that the world is an enormous casino controlled by gangsters and speculators.

"Ethics is not a question of morals or religion only. It is also a required condition for efficiency of political democracy and correct operation of the market economy. If we allow corruption to become institutionalised, the collapse of democratic capitalism and liberalism will be inevitable. We have to raise the level of demands as regards both democratic quality and the transparency of the market."

A procedure for ethical regeneration must be launched. Bland worship of economics, consumerism, the decline of spiritual values, fierce competition, a feeling of permanent insecurity, and fear of ever more accelerated change have

made pragmatism the basic philosophy, at the cost of honesty and solidarity. This favours decisions that encourage aggressive or even violent behaviour to achieve one's own ends or defend one's interests. Ethics is not a question of morals or religion only. It is also a required condition for efficiency of political democracy and correct operation of the market economy.

If we allow corruption to become institutionalised, the collapse of democratic capitalism and liberalism will be inevitable. We have to raise the level of demands as regards both democratic quality and the transparency of the market.

The very concept of liberalism to this day remains too often misunderstood. It needs to be explained again in at least two crucial respects.

Far from idolising the market or demonising all forms of public intervention, liberalism is at bottom inspired by a will to optimise the use of society's resources, and therefore to facilitate not only the creation but also the indispensable diffusion of wealth.

Intrinsically hostile to all forms of concentration of economic power, whether public or private, it is our antidote to the kind of "savage capitalism" often derided today, which distorts fair market rules to the benefit of the more powerful.

In addition, contrary to fashionable arguments, liberalism is not only or mainly an economic theory. It is more concerned with being than with having, and grants a decisive significance to ethical values, without which the system becomes debased and collapses.

Not one of the great liberal thinkers (Adam Smith and Friedrich von Hayek, in particular) has failed to stress this idea. As the late Austrian economist Wilhelm von Ropke put it, "The truly decisive things are those beyond supply and demand, those on which meaning, dignity and the

interior plenitude of existence depend."

All this will have to figure in the discussions of the anti-corruption conference, where the main theme will correctly emphasise the need for establishing collaboration between the state and civil society. We all have to be concerned, and we all have to react.

The writer is a senior partner in an international law firm. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Human Rights File

Weddings extravaganzas should be cut down

By Waleed M. Sadi

WEDDINGS, OCCASIONS that proliferate during the summer season, and especially during the month of August, are usually happy occasions one likes to be invited to, but the kind of extravaganzas one experiences at most so-called high society weddings makes one wonder.

Almost all the weddings I was honoured to be invited to were too loud, too noisy and too late in the hour. It seems that the noisier the wedding are and the later in the day they happen the better they suit Jordanian taste.

I do not know about many other people, but my eardrums appear on the brink of bursting every time I attend a wedding. An ear specialist I once sat next to at a "wild wedding" confirmed to me that what people are being subjected to during weddings is simply inhuman. This is not to mention the discomfort that precedes and follows very late dinners.

I believe weddings in our midst have become a public nuisance. And for a developing country, the kind of expense incurred by parents of grooms on exaggerated food lists and lavish decorations makes one wonder whether we live in a dream land.

The other evening, when I attended yet another Jordanian wedding, fireworks were used on the occasion of the tying of the matrimonial knot. And as if the existing extravaganzas is not enough, it is now fashionable to give wedding reception areas the "fog-treatment", as yet another innovation not rivalled anywhere in the world, except, of course, the Middle East. I even saw the other evening a waiter fall into a swimming pool that had been covered with artificial fog.

Jordanians may have forgotten the age-old saying that too much is very much like very little and that too much is akin of too little. This extravagant style of current weddings in many parts of the

Kingdom reminds me of the code of behaviour that the people from Salt ingeniously articulated not too long ago to introduce some sense into solemn occasions. It seems that Amman desperately needs a similar code to regulate or control weddings and put a limit on expense, noise and hour.

I would suggest that weddings start at eight, with limited or reasonable fanfare. Dinners should be offered not later than 10 p.m. and, above all, the sound of music should be toned down so that people can talk to one another and hear one another with relative ease during weddings. Protecting the hearing should be reinforced by the law.

Smoking in public places — another source of nuisance — I thought was made illegal by all sorts of edicts from the Ministry of Health. Why, then, are indoor wedding halls allowed to be filled with dangerous smoke from people who are reckless with their own lives and disrespectful for the lives of others?

Weddings should be a happy and healthy occasion for all.

As for ending, or at least trimming, the exorbitant expenditures on weddings, I propose that the government levy a tax on all weddings. Weddings that cost less than JD1,000 would be exempted from paying taxes, but anything over that amount should be subjected to a progressive tax, proportional to the total cost.

This way the train of "big" weddings may run out of steam and fashion. This is the only way we can be a bit more merciful towards parents and towards our health. It is simply intolerable to go on with the way we wed our men and women. People often complain privately about the inhuman treatment they undergo during weddings; it is high time to do something to humanise weddings and make them truly happy occasions in one's life.

LETTERS

Unity is the solution

To the Editor:

WHILE I find the recent bombings of bystanders in Jerusalem disgusting, and not according to the laws of Islamic war conduct, I also can sympathise with a people — the Palestinians — who have lost all hope. Daily, I read and see the bulldozing by the Israelis of yet more Palestinian lands. It is not too difficult to put myself in their place. After all, I spent part of 1991 there and saw and lived with them in horrible conditions. Now matters are worse, yet the Israelis will not admit any culpability. They shout about other peoples' terrorism while ignoring their own state terrorism. Nothing will change until the Israelis take responsibility for

what they are doing. And relying on the United States, that most successful of colonial settler states, is not the answer.

The Arab World must unite and rely on itself, rather than stand idle by while each segment of it is brutally terminated. The Arabs may not like all their neighbours, but right now, they seem to suffer from what peoples the world over suffered because of their disunity. And like them, the Arabs are in deep trouble. The Arab World has given too much to civilisation to disappear this way.

S. B. Cassidy
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Exception, not the rule

To the Editor:

ON THE evening of Sept. 4, while we were coming home from shopping, my son, who was driving, passed through a yellow light. Our car was moving with the flow of traffic and as yellow is a warning, there was no danger to the other streams of traffic at the intersection.

Suddenly, a policeman stepped out from nowhere and flagged our car down. He asked for my son's driving licence and for the licence of our car. Everything was in order. However, my son was given a ticket and his license was taken away until the JD 50 fine is paid within 48 hours. What bothers me is that both my son and I told the policeman that we did not pass through a red light but that the light was yellow. He insisted that the light was red and that we had violated the law. Furthermore, the man was rude and not even willing to listen. He looked at us as if we were some kind of sub-humans

unworthy of his attention.

I feel that our car was flagged down with the sole intent of being given a ticket. There are so many ruthless drivers who break the law every day and go unpunished. To be accuse of passing through a red light when the light was yellow is not only unfair, but grossly unjust. And the attitude of the policeman was not healthy. Traffic police are supposed to be there to assist the flow of traffic and to be polite in their way of handing those they stop. My son is not a criminal. He is an electronic engineering student and a well-behaved citizen.

I would like to think that such behaviour by the officer is an exception, not the rule of Jordanian policemen. Further, I would love to see those who continue to violate traffic rules and are a real threat to traffic given JD 50 tickets.

Edna Yaghi,
Amman

Ancient pagan customs flourish in Egypt

By Scheherazade Famarazi
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Egypt — Seven times the women walk around the colossal, virile-looking statue of Ramses II, the ruler of Egypt 3,000 years ago. These childless peasant women hope the ritual will help make them mothers.

Desperate to become pregnant, poor women make pilgrimages to the 12-metre-long Ramses they believe — maybe with history in mind — is a source of fertility. The great pharaoh is said to have had 20 wives who bore him as many as 120 sons and 80 daughters.

Such belief in the power of magic and ancient Egyptian customs still flourishes today, even after centuries of life under Islam, which strongly rejects pagan practices.

These beliefs are more common in the countryside where Egyptians practise a more permissive form of Islam — what Nabil Abdel-Fatah, an expert on Islam, calls a "populist religion."

Nawal Al Saadawi, a well-known novelist and feminist, says the Egyptian masses, although very religious, are also polytheistic and pagan at heart — and this is especially true of women.

"In order to be pregnant, they become very pragmatic," Ms. Saadawi said in an interview. "They can violate any religion."

Egypt's tradition of Sufism — Islamic mysticism — contributes to the belief in magic. Islamic practices can also turn women to the ancient rituals: Muslim law permits a man to abandon a childless wife, and a woman thus divorced has little chance of remarrying.

While in ancient times women made offerings of bread and water to divine statues, today they walk around them seven times, hoping the statues' magical powers will rub off.

Guards at the Ramses statue in Memphis, the ancient Egyptian capital just south of Cairo, tell of women performing the ritual — and even advise that the walk is best done at night, after the tourists go home.

Some women are said to go as far as climbing atop Ramses' muscular figure — which lies gracefully on its back, the pharaoh's finely carved face looking skyward — and making motions that resemble love-making.

They also believe, for reasons unknown, it will better their cause to urinate on the grey limestone statue.

A toothless old woman named Fat'hiya charges a small fee to guide women through the fertility rite. She explained her elaborate ceremony.

Dressed all in black, Fat'hiya leads a woman on a ritual perambulation of a cemetery in a village near Memphis, to an ancient nearby temple, to the Ramses statue.

The 65-year-old woman, almost resembling a cartoon witch, throws her arms around wildly to drive out "jinn" — spirits that make women infertile. The women must wash in dirty, stagnant water in the "jinn haunted" temple — a ritual that dates to the ancient belief in the Nile's life-giving waters. Screaming hysterical-

ly, Fat'hiya startles the woman by throwing a rock from behind, over the woman's head into the temple. If she manages to frighten the woman, she says, it means the demon has left her body.

Fat'hiya boasts that in the past four years, she has been able to cure 20 childless women this way. She said it doesn't pay to try to learn how it all works.

"Just take what there is and don't ask," she said.

Three years into her marriage, Zeinab Hassan, 25, had lost hope of becoming pregnant. So she undertook her own cure by visiting an underground tomb in the ancient ruins of Saqqara not far from Memphis. She spent 15 minutes there all by herself.

"It was frightening. I was shivering. My heart was beating hard. I couldn't move," Ms. Hassan said.

Seeing a doctor would have been too expensive, she reasoned, and besides, the ruins were closer to her home.

"I heard these things would help. It is passed down to us from our ancestors," she said.

A couple of months after visiting the tomb, Ms. Hassan became pregnant. She now has two daughters and, as she spoke, was rocking sleeping 6-month-old Dua on her lap.

Resorting to divine powers is not restricted to fertility cures. Help is sought from ancient temples, tombs and statues to cure a variety of ailments or gain magical powers.

Geraldine Pinch, a professor of Egyptology at Cambridge University and author of "Magic in Ancient Egypt," says that statues of gods and rulers occasionally found mutilated in fields are evidence of old beliefs that still hang on. She suspects villagers damaged the stone images, fearing they had evil powers.

A statue of Sekhmet, the goddess with a lioness' head and the body of a woman, is said to have been locked in a small dark room in Karnak in southern Egypt after villagers complained they had seen the statue move at night.

"These beliefs are handed down by women, who have their own secret oral traditions," Ms. Pinch said in a telephone interview.

She said rural women, unlike men, are cut off from religious life: traditionally, they don't go to mosques or religious gatherings. For many men, however, pagan practices conflict with what they are taught to believe.

Bojana Mojsov, an Egyptologist at the American Research Centre in Cairo, believes the old rites survive because the Egyptian psyche — which reveres the authority represented by colossal statues — remains much as it was in the time of Ramses.

"People have a natural admiration and are awe-inspired by the colossal statues. You feel humility in front of a stone that has been around for thousands of years," she said.

"That's why people worshipped them. It is still alive among the people."

Raiders of the lost archives 'find pharaohs' records'

By Cherry Norton

TWO BRITISH Egyptologists believe they have found the site of an ancient underground chamber containing evidence of a lost civilisation.

Nigel Appleby and Adam Child, already dubbed the "raiders of the lost archives," are preparing an expedition to investigate a site near the great pyramids where they say the Hall of Records lies buried in the sand.

They have been given permission by the Egyptian authorities to survey an area north of the Great Pyramid of Cheops using sensitive scanning equipment capable of detecting underground chambers.

The Hall of Records, according to legend, is made of granite and sheathed in gold; it is said to contain artefacts and documents on the history of mankind whose discovery will herald a new dawn for civilisation. It is alluded to in the Bible and other ancient texts such as the Book of the Dead, Appleby has said recently.

He spent many years examining astronomical and astrological data and the position of the stars in relation to the pyramids before arriving at a location for the hall. He claims to have discovered and deciphered codes in ancient writings that describe the importance of star positions in pinpointing the site. According to Appleby, when the three stars of Orion's belt are lined up directly over three of the great pyramids, the star Sirius is directly over the hall. By projecting its position on to the earth, the approximate site of the hall can be found.

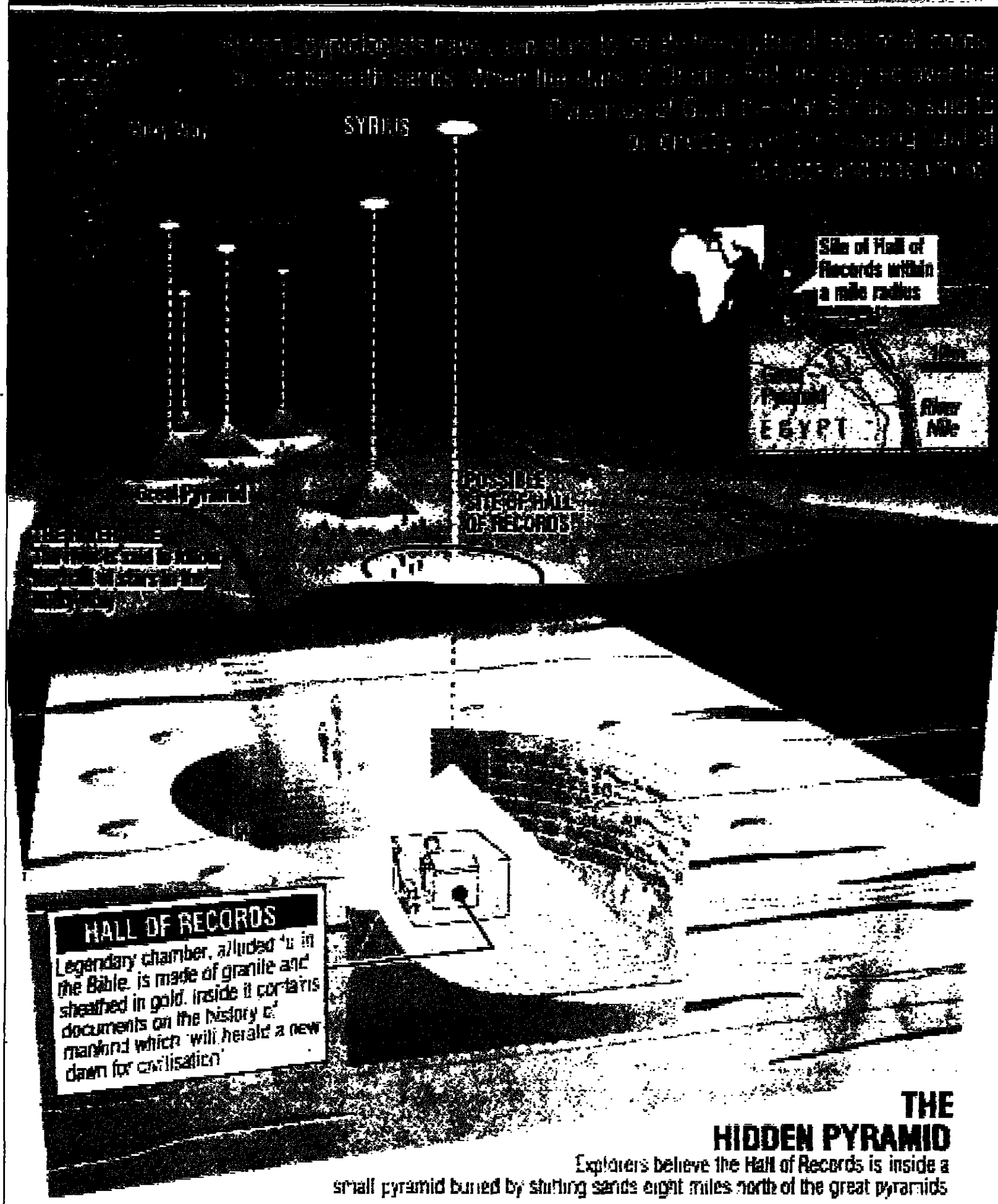
"A Japanese team has spent the past 20 years on the Giza plateau trying to find it and an American team is there now looking under the paw of the Sphinx. But they are looking in the wrong place. I know I am right. It is very exciting," he said.

Academic experts acknowledge there are passages under the Sphinx that have never been fully excavated. However, Appleby said the Hall of Records was further away, probably inside a small pyramid buried by shifting sands. He has calculated that the secret chamber is about eight miles north of the Sphinx and at least 30ft underground.

He and Child plan to spend about a month with a group of geophysical specialists on the site. A team of 18 people, including paramedics, scientists and archaeologists, will submit a scientific report of its findings to the Egyptian authorities. If the search proves promising, the team

members hope the authorities will then allow them to be involved in any excavation that follows. The two men are unlikely adventurers: Appleby, 33, is an engineering designer who runs his own publishing company and Child, 38, is a development manager for BT.

HOW STARS LEAD THE WAY



THE HIDDEN PYRAMID

Explorers believe the Hall of Records is inside a small pyramid buried by shifting sands eight miles north of the great pyramids

Despite earlier discoveries of fabulous wealth, such as in the tomb of Tutankhamun, Child does not believe the hall contains treasure. "It was built as a centre of learning. Its value will be in terms of knowledge, not money," he said.

Academic experts remain sceptical. Dr. Richard Parkinson, an assistant keeper in the department of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum, said: "We have had some inquiries about the Hall of Records. It is something people are looking for but there is no firm evidence that it exists."

"There are certainly tunnels under the Sphinx that people have tried to excavate in the past but there are not, as far as anyone knows, any secret chambers."

However, other ancient sites thought by many to be mythical have eventually turned out to be real. For years scholars dismissed the city of Troy as the fiction of Homer, but in the 1870s Heinrich Schliemann, the German archaeologist, found the city's remains in north-west Turkey.

The Observer

Israeli troops round up hundreds of Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

visited the site of the attack, the Ben Yehuda outdoor mall in central Jerusalem, several days before they blew themselves there on Thursday, killing four Israelis and injuring more than 170 others.

The police suspicions contradict statements by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that the bombing was carried out from territory under the control of the PNA.

The PNA said that the Thursday bombing and a similar double suicide bombing in July were launched from abroad by bombers backed by Syria or Iran.

Despite the crackdown, Israel slightly eased on Sunday a travel ban imposed on Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the bombing, the army said.

Some 7,000 Palestinians were authorised to enter industrial zones controlled by Israel on the borders of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

But Palestinians remain barred from entering Israel and a military blockade around main West Bank towns prevents all movement of Palestinians in and out of the PNA-ruled areas.

A similar closure had been imposed on the Palestinian areas following the Jerusalem bombing in July.

Israel had gradually eased the restrictions, allowing several thousand Palestinians to reach their jobs. But these permits were immediately cancelled following Thursday's bombings.

Before the clampdown, some 100,000 Palestinians held day jobs inside Israel.

Both Jerusalem attacks were claimed by Hamas's military wing, Izz Eddine Qassam, but none of the bombers have been identified and the PNA charged over the weekend they came from abroad with the help of "radical groups in Israel" and were not Palestinians.

Mr. Netanyahu rejected this Friday, insisting that the triple-bombing was not the act of "individual crazed fanatics... from far-off Tibet" but were guided by Hamas units operating in Palestinian-ruled areas.

His government warned it would send army troops into PNA areas to hunt for militants if the Palestinian police do not round up the suspects and dismantle their organisations.

Mr. Netanyahu also suspended implementation of interim peace agreements with the Palestinians, including scheduled further troop withdrawals from the West Bank, until the PNA proves he is cracking down on terrorism.

Palestinian police have arrested two Hamas leaders

from Nablus and Ramallah and detained seven to 10 lower level militants since Thursday's bombing.

But the PNA has refused to carry out mass arrests of Islamists as demanded by Israel, with apparent U.S. backing, saying no evidence has been presented by Israeli police to warrant such widespread detentions.

Israeli troops arrested 31 Palestinians in pre-dawn raids Saturday following 69 picked up the previous night.

Some 200 Palestinians had already been arrested in the West Bank following the Jerusalem bombing in July.

Also on Sunday, Israeli police briefly detained a member of the elected Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), accusing him of driving in Jerusalem without a valid licence.

But the legislator, Hattam Abdul Qader, denied the charges and said he was detained and threatened by police because of his refusal to stop representing Arab residents of Arab east Jerusalem on the Palestinian legislature.

A police spokeswoman said Mr. Abdul Qader, who lives in the Arab east Jerusalem district of Beit Hanina, was detained for driving without a valid licence and had been released on a bail of \$700 after questioning.

Ghoshel, Hamas spokesman, detained for 'questioning'

(Continued from page 1)

A Hamas statement denounced the arrest and said that the move was "unjustified" and called for his immediate release.

"The arrest of Mr. Ghoshel is a step provocative to the feelings of our unified Palestinian and Jordanian people... We reaffirm that our struggle against the [Israeli] occupation is a legitimate right," the one-page statement said.

Mr. Ghoshel, born in 1936 in Jerusalem, is one of the founders of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Palestine. He is also a member of the politburo of Hamas.

The government has repeatedly said that Hamas is an organisation with no presence in Jordan though its leaders who live here, carry out "information activities."

Last May, the government agreed to host Hamas former politburo chief Musa Abu Marzouk, who was detained in the United States for more than two years.

Dr. Mutawi said that "wherever his passport is, this is not the most important thing. We are talking about matters of national security and Mr. Ghoshel is being questioned now in relation to those matters."

Summit calls situation a 'serious threat'

(Continued from page 1)

preempting the final settlement of the Holy City, the three leaders called for the "implementation of the interim agreement signed on Sept. 28, 1995 with all its provisions and the resumption of the final status negotiations as early as possible."

"Israel should desist from embarking on any action or carrying out any project which might change the situation of any part of the Syrian territory located behind the demarcation line as of June 4 1967," the communiqué added, in a clear reference to Israeli plans to build a dam on the Yarmouk River which Israel has tried to relocate into occupied Syrian territory.

Condemning "all acts of terror and violence targeting civilians irrespective of their motives or sources," the communiqué defined terrorism as "attempts by a minority group from both the Arab and Israeli side to obstruct the peace process and deprive the nations of the region of their natural right to live in peace."

The Jerusalem Post had speculated that the trilateral meeting could have been a response to a call by Israeli President Ezer Weizman on both King Hussein and Mr. Mubarak to use their influence on Mr. Arafat to convince him to apply an iron fist policy against Islamist Palestinian groups.

But the communiqué issued after the meeting testifies to Arab unity, an Egyptian gov-

ernment official commented.

Condemnation of Israel is "written in bold letters," Egyptian government spokesman Nabil Osman told the Jordan Times.

The trilateral summit reviewed common stands and ways to break the 18-month long deadlock in the peace talks ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's upcoming tour in the region, which is scheduled to start on Sept. 9.

The Cairo communiqué welcomed the new U.S. initiative and "wished [Ms. Albright] every success in her mission."

The Cairo summit appealed to the international community to "use all possible means to assist the parties concerned in the conflict to overcome the obstacles hindering the peace process and ensure an end to the current stalemate which threatens to inflict serious damage on all regional and international powers."

The five-page statement also urged "all parties to reaffirm their commitment to adopt positions and policies to pave the ground for the resumption of serious and intensive talks on the Palestinian track as well as on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks."

The Jordanian delegation included HRH Prince Talal, Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh, Upper House Speaker Zeid Rifa'i and Head of Security Samih Barikhi.

Agricultural conference issues recommendations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Conference on Agricultural Growth, Sustainable Resource Management and Poverty Alleviation in the Low Rainfall Areas Sunday concluded its deliberation in a closing ceremony chaired by Mijhem Al Khreisha, minister of agriculture, and arrived at recommendations regarding four main areas:

Public and private investment

Market liberalisation has created both the need for new investment to create alternative employment opportunities, and it has increased the potential economic returns to new investments in low rainfall areas.

Priority areas for public investment are:

- Agricultural research on natural resource management.
- Rural infrastructure, especially access roads, electricity and rural service centres.
- Water resource development, including water harvesting and watershed management, and
- Investments in people, especially education and training of poor people and women.

(Continued on page 9)

BritishBank to accept donations for "The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund"

BritishBank announced today that for the convenience of individuals, it will accept private donations on behalf of "The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund." Donations will be forwarded collectively and free of charge to Kensington Palace at the end of each month. Cheques, which should be marked for the account of "BritishBank: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund," may be mailed or presented personally to any of the Bank's branches or deposited at any BritishBank ATM. Cash donations will also be accepted. This facility will be available until the end of February 1998.

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REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates		Prices as at 7/09/97 19:06	
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6933	146.07
GB Sterling	1.4436	1.0000	146.07
JP Yen	0.0068	0.0074	1.0000
CA Dollar	0.7225	0.5180	122.15
IT Lira	0.0008	0.0009	1.0000
FR Franc	0.1666	0.1236	16.66

Middle Eastern Currencies		Prices as at 7/09/97 19:06	
Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6933	146.07
Jordan Dinar	0.7050	0.4868	106.35
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1848	40.34
Bahraini Dinar	0.2747	0.1895	41.04
Qatar Dinar	3.3608	2.3229	512.96
Kuwait Dinar	0.2723	0.1892	41.02
Emirate Dinar	0.85	0.5866	129.84
Lebanese Lira	0.2854	0.2002	44.50

Energy		Mid-East Currencies	
Commodity	Price	Currency	USD
Brent	18.49	SA Riyal	0.2666
NYMEX	18.58	AE Dirham	0.2723
Bonny	18.49	KW Dinar	3.3608
Dubai	17.55	BH Dinar	0.2747
UL Gas	200.00	CY Pound	1.8732

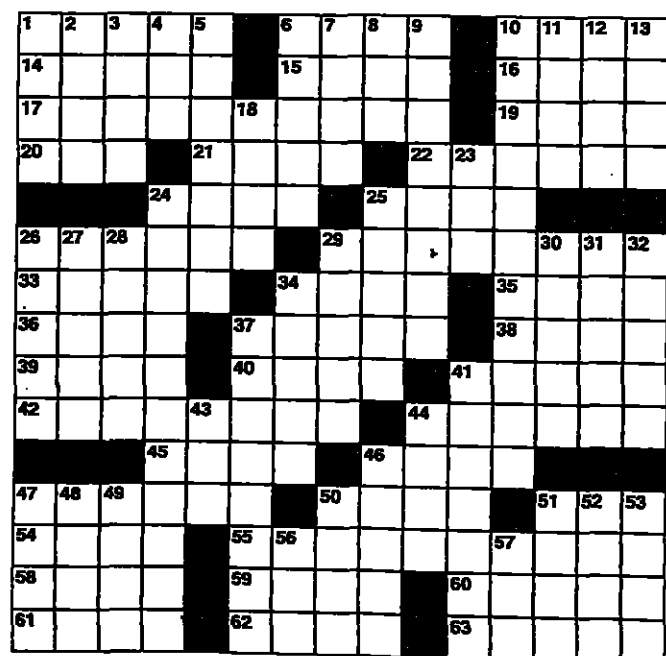
Metal Prices		Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)	
Commodity	Price	Currency	Rate
Gold (oz)	322.3	USD	5.53
Silver (oz)	47.2	GBP	7.06
Platinum (oz)	418.4	JPY	0.45
AL (3 Months)	1607	DEM	3.09
CU (3 Months)	2161	FRF	3.22
Zinc (3 Months)	1480	CHF	1.25
Lead (3 Months)	648	ITL	6.76
Ni (3 Months)	6699		

Main Equity Indices		JOD Cross Rates	
Index	Value	Currency	Rate
New York DOW JONES	7822.41	US Dollar	0.7050
New York S&P 500	529.05	GB Sterling	1.4436
London FT-SE 100	4994.2	DE Mark	0.3923
Tokyo Nikkei 225	18850.77	FR Franc	0.1666
Paris CAC 40	2924.51	JP Yen	0.0068
Frankfurt DAX	4100.87	NL Guilder	0.3484

Energy		JOD Cross Rates	
Commodity	Price	Currency	Rate
Coffee (c/b)	205.47	US Dollar	0.7050
Cocoa (c/b)	1799	GB Sterling	1.4436
Sugar (c/b)	333	DE Mark	0.3923
Wheat (c/b)	141	FR Franc	0.1666
Soya (c/b)	22.29	JP Yen	0.0068
Tea (c/b)	195	NL Guilder	0.3484
Barley (c/b)	0	IT Lira	6.4023
Rice (c/b)	430		

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Shirt size
 - 6 Fix
 - 10 Sound stages
 - 14 Bay window
 - 15 Lined up
 - 16 Single thing
 - 17 "Porgy and Bess" song
 - 19 Columbus' ship
 - 20 North sea feeder
 - 21 Nay or yea
 - 22 Banker, sometimes
 - 24 Tire
 - 25 Maneuver
 - 26 Shrewd
 - 29 Torches, of a kind
 - 34 Explode
 - 34 Nurse god
 - 35 Basil
 - 36 Overdue
 - 37 Mining cars
 - 38 Food shop
 - 39 Thick piece
 - 40 Submarine
 - 41 American poet
 - 42 Wire
 - 44 Raises roughly
 - 45 March plant
 - 46 Insect sense organ
 - 47 Struts
 - 50 Ditto
 - 51 Acquired
 - 54 Arizona Indian
 - 55 Arkansas city
 - 58 Nautical word
 - 59 Cupid
 - 60 Town in Florida
 - 61 Quills
 - 62 Cowboy's item
 - 63 Conduit



by By Don Johnson

ALBS	TORAH	PLAT
PALE	ABONE	AERO
EVERY	NOWAND	THEN
SAWBONES	ERRS	
GIS	OSLO	
ATAMAN	SPLENDOR	
SOLE	SHEET	ORE
SKITCH	HENDERSON	
EYE	HOODS	LENT
TONTINES	BASSOS	
PALES	EEL	
PAUL	ALLOCATE	
HENRY	LONGFELLOW	
ETTU	ANEAR	ESTE
PEAS	DOWRY	FOES

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- DOWN
- 1 Be unsuccessful
 - 2 Calla lily
 - 3 Edges
 - 4 Precious stone
 - 5 Lift
 - 6 Dull finish
 - 7 Amerindian
 - 8 — de plume
 - 9 Residents
 - 10 Egg order

- 11 Town in Oklahoma
- 12 Fork prong
- 13 Asterisk
- 18 Scolded
- 23 Dawn
- 24 Trees with white flowers
- 25 Publicity spot
- 26 Belgian city
- 27 Hackneyed
- 28 Sum
- 29 Grace
- 30 Anthony and Barbara
- 31 Boardinghouse sign
- 32 Narrow cuts
- 34 Tire feature
- 37 Farm machine
- 41 Short jackets
- 43 Thousand dollars
- 44 Incline
- 46 Outdated
- 47 Fellow

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Do you know exactly how much you owe, and to whom? If you've been worrying about money, find out. Start with a budget. That's not as difficult as it seems. First, add up all the money that's coming in. Then, add up all the money that's going out. It's pretty simple, really.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Virgo helps everybody stay on track and Scorpio provides the rocket booster. With both these signs' influence, you're in for a wild ride. Your mate and/or your kids could drag you off into a crazy adventure. You might as well relax and enjoy it.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you're in a job you don't like, go look for a better one. They don't shoot people in this country for trying to improve their situation in life. If that's what's coming up for you, follow through on the idea. Talk it over with your mate tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You could hear rumours that are rather upsetting. Things are not the way you think they should be. Don't take it too seriously. If what you hear is outrageous or malicious, the odds are it's not true. Check the gossip out thoroughly before passing it on.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Recycle some of the treasures you don't need anymore. Be brutal. It's important to clear out some space. You'll be coming up with new ideas soon, and you'll need some room to make them happen. If you're having trouble making up your mind, ask your roommate to decide.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You'll be acknowledged today for all the work you've put in. Don't be embarrassed. Soak up all the accolades you can get. Praise gives you the energy to keep doing good work. And you're the sort of person who takes on difficult jobs. You need the rejuvenation.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Push yourself to finalise a deal. This could be about something you're selling. You could also be buying new things. You're very decisive, for a change. You've made up your mind. So go get it, get home and get on with your life. You'll be so delighted with yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are a powerhouse of energy. There are some problems that need to be addressed, but you can find your way around all of them. You're charming. You'll do best if the money you're bringing in is mostly for other people. Keep at it. Your scheme is working.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are things you need to do that you don't like. You're not getting enough play time. Take along a person you love and the day will be more fun. You've been receiving and learning, and doing a good job of that. Today, you'll get an opportunity to teach.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) There's a temporary communications breakdown today. Somebody may accidentally bring up a subject that's sensitive. This could be difficult initially, but you'll be fine. If you're with people you've known for years, discuss the subject. Getting it out in the open will help everybody understand one another better.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Somebody is insisting you do things a certain way. You don't really like this condition, but there doesn't seem to be much you can do about it. Well, that's not true. You can change your attitude. Instead of complaining, comply. You can learn from this situation, if you try.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) There's money coming in. This is good. Also, spend more time with your partner. Take a trip, a long drive or a bike ride. Get out and do something more strenuous than usual. Hike up a mountain. Go bird watching or fishing. Go sailing, if the weather's good. Have an adventure.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Business

Agricultural

Meeting

Liability

Centralize

THE BETTER HALF. By G. J. ...

JUMBLE

TENFO

ECOLY

VODIE

GOTFER

CHIPS

CLICK

There must be more to life than...

We need to get a satellite...

THAT SCRAMBLED...

THE HENRY...

Print answer here...

Agricultural conference issues recommendations

(Continued from page 8)

All public investments in the low rainfall areas should be developed in close collaboration with local communities, and local communities should co-finance and help maintain investment structures.

Private investment is essential for developing the low rainfall areas, especially the rehabilitation of rangeland, water resource development, and diversifying the local economy to create new employment opportunities in agriculture, agroindustry and other non-farm activities. The public sector may need to create improved incentives to encourage private investment, both through its own investments in rural infrastructure, and through provision of credit, and financial incentives.

Generation and adoption of technologies

Linkages between research and extension have to be strengthened in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of low research in rainfall areas, and they need to

be farmer-driven. Technology development for low rainfall areas should focus on:

- Crop diversification (including fruit trees).
 - The integration of efficient water harvesting with range improvement and soil conservation.
 - and the agroprocessing and marketing problems.
- Social and environmental benefits should be given equal weight with economic considerations when assessing the feasibility of evaluating the impact of technologies in low rainfall areas.

Crop-livestock integration

Devise protective measures compatible with the GATT agreement in order to safeguard barley and livestock production.

Discourage further land fragmentation and secure property rights to individuals and/or communities to encourage investment and preserve natural resources.

Improve marketing systems for livestock, inputs and outputs, strengthening producer cooperatives where appropriate.

Promote fodder conservation and the storage of feed resources at the farm level.

Support research for development of improved drought management packages that reduce farmers' dependence on government assistance in drought years.

Range rehabilitation

Establish a data base for rangeland rehabilitation by creating a monitoring, evaluation, and information system using modern technologies (resource inventories, geographical information system, early warning systems, etc.).

Develop property rights and institutional frameworks for devolving the control and management of rangeland to local communities, and implement these changes.

Create and develop a national authority for protecting the resource base and ensuring efficient and sustainable use of resources.

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Meeting of Arab Bank Global Asset Liability Management Committee

Centralized Global Treasury Unit to be established in London



AMMAN (Jordan Times)—The First meeting of the Arab Bank Global Asset Liability Management Committee was convened in Paris on 29 August, 1997.

The meeting, presided over by the Chairman, Mr Abdel Majid Shoman, the President Mr Khalid Shoman, and the Deputy President Mr Abdel Hamid Shoman, was attended by 20 top executives from Head Office and the main financial centers in Paris, London, New York, Manama and Singapore, along with the managers and board members of the Bank's wholly-owned and sister institutions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The objective of this strategic meeting was to fine tune the Bank's Global Risk Management

Plan and to address the developments in the banking industry especially those related to the management of interest rates, foreign exchange risks and the new derivative products available in the market.

To achieve these goals the Global Asset Liability Management Committee has decided to establish a centralized Global Treasury Unit in London.

The Unit will be linked on a real time, on-line basis with the Arab Bank 21 centers through its main regional centers in Europe, North America, South East Asia,

and the Middle East.

The Group Treasurer, assisted by sophisticated Risk Management Systems, will be undertaking stress tests on the Bank's consolidated Balance Sheet in addition to the main function of optimizing the use of the Bank's funds, lines and limits in order to have a streamlined treasury operation.

The meeting came in line with the Arab Bank's continuous efforts to manage its assets and liabilities in a professional manner.

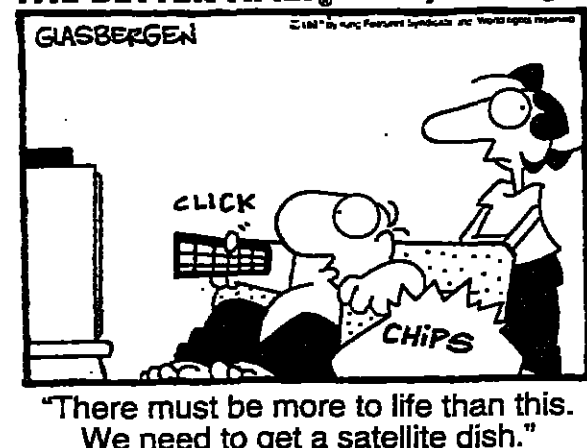
It will be followed by a four-day Asset Liabil

ity Management seminar to be held this week in Amman. The seminar which is the second in a series of this year, will be held exclusively for Arab Bank regional managers in cooperation with Batt and Partners Consulting Ltd., a specialized top level consulting firm serving financial institutions worldwide.

The 30 attendants will represent Arab Bank branches in Spain, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Bahrain, Yemen, UAE, Qatar, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine.

Arab Bank continued its steady growth during the first half of this year. The total Balance Sheet stood at USD 21 billion, with total deposits and shareholders equity reaching USD 14 billion and USD 1.4 billion respectively.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"There must be more to life than this. We need to get a satellite dish."

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Angillon

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

TENFO

ECCLY

VIDDIE

GOTFER

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

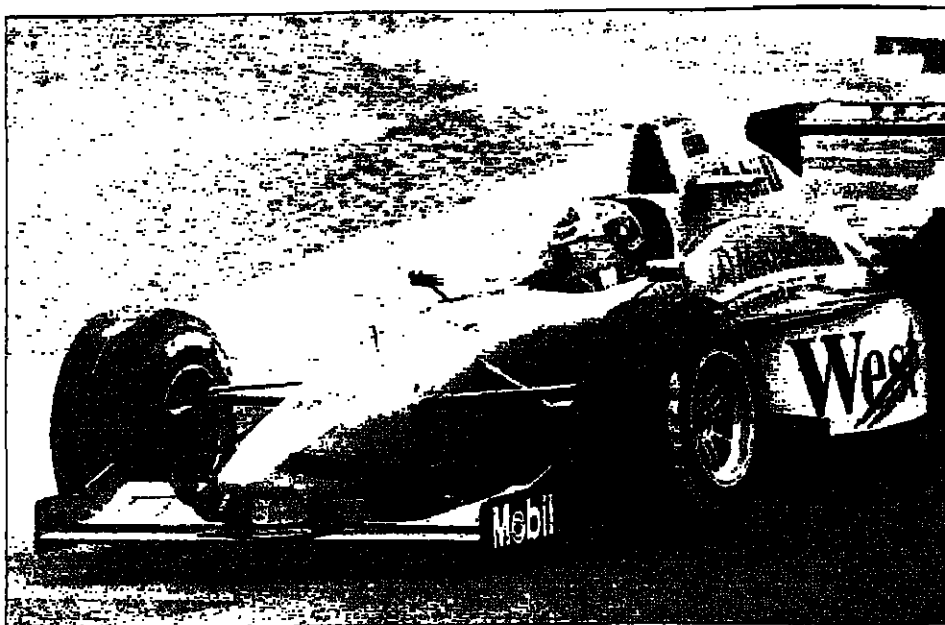
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABNEY BATON HARROW REDUCE Answer: Too much luggage made the passengers do this - CARRY ON

JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE *** JORDAN MARKETPLACE

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Britain's David Coulthard, driving a McLaren, takes a curve during the Italian Grand Prix motor race in Monza. Coulthard won the Italian Grand Prix followed by France's Jean Alesi who came in second and Germany's Heinz-Harald Frentzen who finished third (Reuters photo)

Coulthard takes Italian Grand Prix

MONZA (AFP) — A dazzlingly quick pit stop gave Scotland's David Coulthard his third Formula One race when he took the Italian Grand Prix here on Sunday.

Frenchman Jean Alesi in the Benetton, who had led for over half the race, finished second with Heinz-Harald Frentzen in a Williams third.

Two-time world champion Michael Schumacher retained his lead in the driver's championship race when he finished sixth.

His closest rival Jacques Villeneuve finished fifth but remains 10 points adrift with only four races left.

For Coulthard, the credit for his win must go to his pit crew.

Right from the start he had followed Jean Alesi who had started in pole position and although after slipping three seconds behind the Frenchman he managed to get back up on the Benetton's tail. Alesi, who has only won one Grand Prix in nine years, looked to be firmly in control.

Both drivers came in for their single pit stop on lap 32 of the 53 lap race and it was the McLaren pit crew who where the quicker, allowing Coulthard to get out first. "I had only got four points since winning in Melbourne so this has come at a good time for me," explained the Scotsman.

"This was a team victory. As soon as we saw Jean go in for his stop I came in. Everyone knows McLaren are quickest when it comes to pit-stops."

"All credit to the team as I was able to get ahead of Jean in the pits. That was the key really," he added.

Alesi, still looking for a drive next season, was stunned by the sudden turn around.

"Everything was going fine until the pit stop. From the moment Coulthard got out in front of me that was it. I am really upset," said Alesi.

Defending world champion, whose future next season is also in doubt, managed to drag his Arrows into ninth place before his Yamaha engine exploded in a cloud of smoke with only six laps to go.

England's Johnny Herbert survived a hor-

rifying 175mph crash in the 28th lap when he and Ralf Schumacher touched.

Herbert's Sauber went slewing off the track and crashed backwards into a tyre barrier but he got out of the car uninjured.

Schumacher's Jordan was also damaged and although he was able to get back to the pits he was forced to retire.

"He gave me a little bit of a squeeze and I had no where to go."

He leaned on me a little bit too much," said Herbert afterwards.

Before the race started film star Sylvester Stallone formally signed a deal to make a major international film on Formula One motor racing.

"Ideally it will be in the cinemas in 18 months," said the star of the Rocky and Rambo films.

Stallone will star in the film with an international cast including some current Grand Prix drivers.

"Many of them have star quality," said the actor.

He formally signed a contract with Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone, although it had been announced last July 17 that he had bought the rights to make the film from Ecclestone.

"It will be good for Formula One," Ecclestone added, but declined to comment on speculation that the film will be a major marketing tool to return Grand Prix racing to the United States, from which it has been absent since 1991.

Stallone said the film would use new technology not seen in films before to allow the audience to be in the mind, emotions and on the track with the drivers of these machines."

It will be shot mainly in Europe, mixing both real and staged Grand Prix scenes.

Norway qualify for World Cup finals

PARIS (AFP) — Norway became the ninth country to qualify for next year's World Cup finals when they scored a 1-0 victory away to Azerbaijan on Saturday and clinched top spot in European Group Three.

Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo scored the only goal with a close-range header in the 43rd minute in Baku as the Norwegians qualified for the finals for the third time.

Flo headed home a cross from Pettr Rudi on a night when boggy conditions made life difficult for both teams.

Norway's previous World Cup final appearances were in 1938 and three years ago in the United States.

The Norwegians will join Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon, Romania, host France and defending champions Brazil in France next year.

On a busy evening of qualifying action, Romania destroyed Liechtenstein, scoring an 8-1 away win in Eschen, and Portugal kept alive their slim chances of qualifying from Group Nine with a 1-1 draw away to Germany in front of more than 75,000 spectators in Berlin.

Portugal scored the opening goal in the 71st minute when striker Pedro Barbosa cut through the middle of the German defence and fired home a powerful low right-footed shot.

Only the agility of goalkeeper Andreas Kopke prevented the Portuguese from increasing their lead two minutes later but Ulf Kirsten sealed a draw for the Germans with a curling left-foot shot with nine minutes remaining after Portugal had Rui Costa sent off on a second yellow card after being too slow to leave the field when being substituted.

European champions Germany are now unbeaten in their last 17 matches. Ukraine lead the tight group with 17 points from Germany and Portugal, both on 16.

The Germans have two easy-looking home games remaining.

The Romanians were relaxed against Liechtenstein after having already sealed their place from Group Eight. Dorinel Munteanu scored a hat-trick and Gheorghe Craioveanu scored twice.

Holland made virtually certain of their spot in the finals with a 3-1 win over neighbours and fierce rivals Belgium in front of 52,000 fans in Rotterdam. They now head Group Seven with 18 points to Belgium's

European World Cup qualifying groups

Group 1	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Greece	7	4	1	2	11	4	13
Denmark	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
Croatia	6	3	3	0	13	8	12
Bosnia	7	2	0	5	8	14	6
Slovenia	6	0	1	5	4	16	1
Group 2	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Italy	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
England	6	5	0	1	11	2	15
Poland	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Georgia	5	1	0	4	3	9	3
Moldova	5	0	0	5	2	13	0
Group 3	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Norway	7	5	2	0	16	2	17
Finland	7	3	1	3	10	11	10
Hungary	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Switzerland	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Azerbaijan	6	1	0	5	2	14	3
Group 4	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Austria	8	6	1	1	12	4	19
Scotland	8	5	2	1	9	2	17
Sweden	8	5	0	3	14	9	15
Latvia	8	3	1	4	10	11	10
Belarus	7	1	1	5	4	12	4
Estonia	9	1	1	7	4	15	4
Group 5	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Bulgaria	6	5	0	1	15	5	15
Russia	6	4	2	0	15	2	14
Group 6	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Israel	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
Cyprus	6	1	1	4	5	14	4
Luxembourg	6	0	0	6	1	17	0
Group 7	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Spain	8	6	2	0	21	4	20
Yugoslavia	8	6	1	1	23	6	19
Slovakia	7	5	0	2	16	8	15
Czech Republic	8	3	1	4	12	6	10
Faroe Isles	9	2	0	7	9	28	6
Malta	8	0	0	8	2	31	0
Group 8	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Romania	8	8	0	0	32	3	24
Eire	8	4	2	2	19	6	14
Lithuania	8	4	2	2	8	5	14
Macedonia	9	4	1	4	21	16	13
Iceland	8	1	3	4	7	12	6
Liechtenstein	9	0	0	9	3	48	0
Group 9	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Ukraine	9	5	2	2	8	6	17
Germany	8	4	4	0	15	6	16
Portugal	9	4	4	1	11	4	16
Armenia	8	1	5	2	8	11	8
N. Ireland	8	1	4	3	6	8	7
Albania	8	0	1	7	3	16	1



Portuguese players Rui Costa (L) and Paulo Sousa (C) hug their teammate Pedro Barbosa who scored the first goal during their World Cup qualifying match against Germany. The final score was 1-1 (Reuters photo)

15 after goals from Jaap Stam with a flashing header. Patrick Kluijver with a low right-footed drive and Dennis Bergkamp, with a scrambled effort from close range. The Belgians' lone reply came from a penalty converted by Lorenzo Staelens.

Croatia boosted their chances of advancing from Group One with a 3-2 win at home to Bosnia-Herzegovina with experienced Zvonimir Boban scoring the winner with just 10 minutes remaining.

Greece, however, stayed a point in front of the Croats — although still behind group leaders Denmark — with a 3-0 win away to Slovenia in Ljubljana.

All three Greek goals came in the second half. Austria moved ahead of Scotland in Group Four with a 1-0 win over Sweden in Vienna thanks to Andreas Herzog's 76th minute strike.

Finland won 2-1 away to Switzerland, an impressive triumph in a match between

teams left in Norway's wake in Group Three.

Two goals by Roy Keane helped Ireland to a 4-2 victory over Iceland in a Group Eight match in Reykjavik, but Mick McCarthy's side again showed a lack of discipline which could cost them dear.

Substitute Mark Kennedy was sent off and the Republic face being without three suspended players in their next qualifier in Lithuania on Wednesday. Romania have won the group, with the Irish, now

on 14 points, battling it out with Lithuania (14 points) and Macedonia (13) for the runners-up spot.

Lithuania defeated Macedonia 2-0 with goals from Valdas Ivanauskas (25) and Aidas Preikshtaitis (37).

Both Ireland and Iceland were reduced to 10 men before the finish with Iceland fullback Larus Sijurdsson committing two bookable offences.

Kennedy got his marching orders as well after twice foolishly showing dissent having turned the game Ireland's way when he replaced debutant Kevin Kilbane at the start of the second half.

Skipper Andy Townsend and full back Jeff Kenna are both set to be banned from the match in Vilnius next week after being shown their second yellow cards of the qualifying campaign.

In a Group Six match between teams out of contention for a place in France, the Czech Republic beat the Faroe Islands 2-0 in Tofir with first-half goals from Vladimir Smicer and Pavel Kukka (penalty), while in Group Four a late penalty from Mikhail Zemlinski gave Latvia a 1-0 win over Estonia.

Armenia defeated Albania 3-0 in a Group Nine match in Yerevan, leaving the Albanians without a win in eight matches.

Lewis attacks 'dictator' Nebiolo

BONN (AFP) — Newly-retired athletics superstar Carl Lewis has slammed the man who runs the sport as a "dictator".

Lewis is scathing in his criticism of Italian Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), in an interview to be published Monday by the German weekly news magazine

Der Spiegel.

"Primo Nebiolo is a dictator, and no dictatorship has ever worked," said Lewis, who retired last month after a glittering 17-year career in which he won nine Olympic gold medals.

Lewis said the IAAF president tells everybody that "there is only one route" — the one he decrees.

Nebiolo, he said, has not protected the health of the sport or effectively combatted the use of drugs.

Lewis also hit out at Nebiolo's plans to run World Championships over 13 days, saying the proposal was "ridiculous" and that the championships need to be shorter, rather than longer.

Atletico hammer Valladolid

MADRID (AFP) — Atletico Madrid continued their solid start to the season on Saturday, hammering Valladolid 5-0 to head the provisional Spanish standings with four points from two matches.

Bogdanovic, twice, Santi, Lardin and Kiko were all on target for the hosts, who began their campaign with an encouraging 1-1 away draw at city rivals and champi-

ons Real.

Valladolid are meanwhile still awaiting their first point, having succumbed at home to Real Betis last Monday.

Betis followed that up Saturday with a disappointing 1-1 home draw against Athletic Bilbao.

MAJOR LEAGUE ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baseball results and standings after Saturday's games.

National League

Pittsburgh	13	Cincinnati	4
St Louis	10	Colorado	7
Colorado	7	St Louis	6 (2nd Gm)
Chicago Cubs	7	NY Mets	5
Los Angeles	9	Florida	5
San Francisco	5	Houston	3
Philadelphia	5	Montreal	3
Atlanta	9	San Diego	1

American League

Cleveland	9	Chi White Sox	7
Detroit	7	Anaheim	5
Baltimore	4	NY Yankees	1
Boston	10	Milwaukee	2
Toronto	2	Texas	1
Oakland	9	Kansas City	3
Seattle	9	Minnesota	0



Cleveland Indians second baseman Bip Roberts, who momentarily lost the ball in the sun, has to back peddle to catch an infield pop up by Chicago White Sox batter Robin Ventura in the first inning. The Indians won 9-7 (Reuters photo)

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THE LOST WORLD (JURASSIC PARK)
 Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Nabila Obeid... in
AL MARA' WAL SATOUR (Arabic)
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Amman prepares to host Middle East Body Building Championship

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preparations have been concluded to host the 5th Middle East Body Building Championship scheduled to be held at the Sports Palace September 11-15.

"We have fulfilled the task and everything is ready for the event," Abdul Munem Abu Touq, president of the Jordan Body Building Federation (JBBF) Sunday told the Jordan Times.

Thirty-five participants from six Arab countries will be taking part in the championship.

"Participants from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon in addition to Jordan will compete in the four-day competition," Abu Touq noted.

"The list of participants is now complete," he said adding that he expected an exciting event.

Jordan will take part with ten players as the international body building regulations allow the host country to participate with two teams — five players in

each — and the best results will count towards the final score.

"With some new players on the teams we hope to get better results," he said.

He was referring to Jordan's last participation in the World Body Building Championship last year here in Amman.

Jordan came in the 15th place over 80 countries who took part in the world event.

"We were ready but the other teams were better prepared than us," he said.

Abu Touq said Jordan's champion Mustafa Hasanien, who was eliminated from competition in the World Championship, will not take part in the event because he is not yet fit to participate.

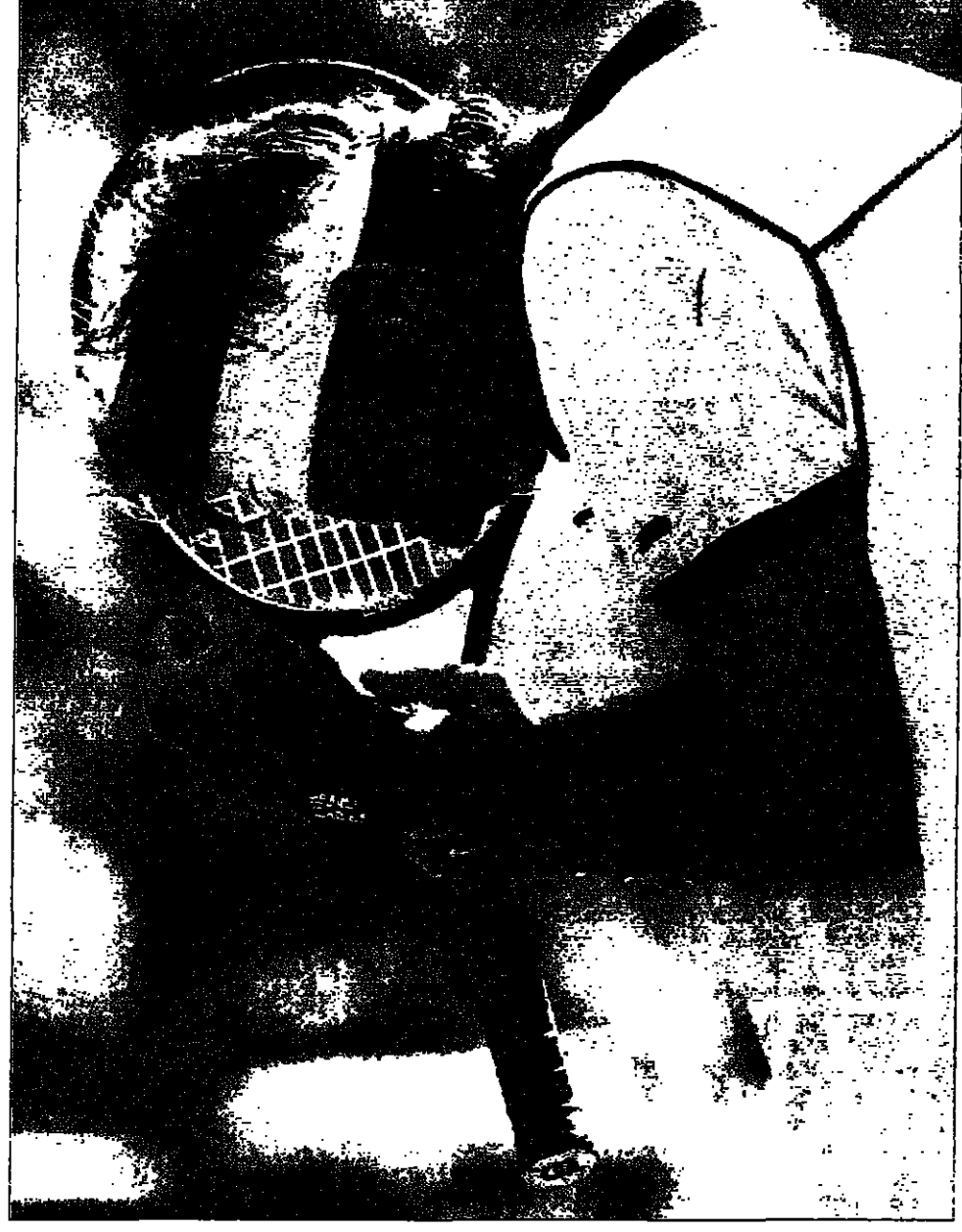
Next on the federation's agenda is taking part in the Arab Championship in Dubai October 25th and the World Championship in Prague, the Czech Republic in November.

Rusedski blocks out Diana's tragedy for landmark win Rafter ends Chang's streak

NEW YORK (AFP) — Greg Rusedski understood the eyes of Britain could not be focused upon him while they were filling with tears.

Rusedski marked a bitter-sweet 24th birthday Saturday at the U.S. Open by beating Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman 6-1, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 to reach his first Grand Slam final, against Australia's Pat Rafter here on Sunday.

The 13th seed Rafter overpowered World No. 2 Michael Chang in straight sets to book a place in the U.S. Open final with a 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 win and robbed Chang of perhaps his best chance ever to add a second Grand Slam crown to the French Open title he won in 1989.



Funeral services in London for Diana, Princess of Wales, saddened British hearts and commanded the attention of the world as did the news of her death one week ago in a Paris car crash.

Given such sorrow, Rusedski's quest to be the first British men's Grand Slam champion since Fred Perry won here in 1936 was meaningless.

"The tragedy with Princess Diana, I mean, you can't compare the two things," Rusedski said.

"I was just trying to focus on the tennis and not think of too many other things, just went out there and played each point at a time."

Unseeded Greg Rusedski from Great Britain celebrates his U.S. Open semi-final victory over Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman. Rusedski defeated Bjorkman 6-1 3-6 3-6 6-3 7-5 (Reuters photo)

Rusedski has no illusions about being a modern-day Arthur, wielding a tennis racket rather than Excalibur in Britain's hour of need.

"I don't think it takes anything away from what I've accomplished or done," he said. "I'm just proud maybe I can put a smile on some people's faces. I had people call from all over England to wish me well on such a sad day, which was very kind."

With a severe throat infection, Rusedski awoke 4 1/2 hours before the start of his match and watched an hour of taped television coverage of the funeral service.

"It was very sad," he said. "It was nice in the respect the nation paid to Di, how much the nation cared for her. I thought her brother gave a tremendous speech."

Brian Teacher, Rusedski's coach, worried that watching the funeral might affect his pupil's performance in the biggest match of his career.

"I did have a little concern about that," Teacher said. "We talked about it. I felt he had it in the proper perspective. I don't think it he overdid it at all. He seemed pretty balanced about watching it."

What the Canadian-born Brit, who switched nationalities in 1995, did not feel like was a birthday celebration, even after becoming the first British man in a Grand Slam final in two

decades.

"It's sad in a lot of respects," he said. "Because of what happened to Princess Diana, I'm going to celebrate my birthday next weekend."

Dr. Gwen Korovin, throat specialist to opera star Luciano Pavarotti, ordered Rusedski to limit talking to ease his infected throat. But the left-hander vows the laryngitis won't keep him from Sunday's final.

"It was hard to breathe yesterday, but when I got on the court it was fine," Rusedski said. "I was going to play no matter what. If you can step on the court you can play because you don't get these opportunities very often."

Teacher was counting on fitness and emotion to pull Rusedski through.

"I knew at the start of the fifth set he would be more pumped up than he had been at the start and sure enough the adrenaline carried him," Teacher said.

Chang was the top-ranked player left in the draw after the fourth-round upset of World No. 1 and four-time champion Pete Sampras, and he knew he would face an unseeded player in the final if he got through.

Rafter, however, had other ideas.

"The way I played today, I couldn't have dreamed to play better," said Rafter,

who didn't surrender his serve once in the two hour and two minute match.

"The serve went well, the volley great," said Rafter, who put away 27 winners at the net. "On every break point I came up with something I don't usually come up with."

Chang, who needed five sets each to get past his previous two opponents, couldn't pull off the turn around this time. But he appeared to have a glimmer of a chance early in the third set.

He held his serve to open

the set in a classic Chang game. On game point he raced back to intercept a lob that most players would never have reached, pivoted and slammed down an overhead.

Pumped up, he took a 15-40 lead on Rafter's serve, but the Australian saved the first with an ace and the second with a service winner.

"I thought it was going to turn around there," Rafter said. "It was one of those things that I had to be very careful about him getting back into the match."

World Gymnastics Championships Chechi continues dominance on rings

LAUSANNE (AFP) — Yuri Chechi of Italy continued his dominance on the rings Saturday night when he easily won the gold medal for the discipline at the World Gymnastics Championships.

Red-haired Chechi, the Olympic champion, scored 9.775 to win the gold medal ahead of Szilvester Scollany of Hungary (9.687). It was the fifth straight year Chechi had won the event at the world championships.

Alexei Nemov of Russia, the bronze medalist in the discipline at the Atlanta Olympics, won the gold in the men's floor exercises with 9.625 points.

Nemov won the vault gold at last year's championships and at the Olympics.

Russian-born Frenchman Dimitri Karbanenko took the silver with 9.550 ahead of China's Li Xiaopeng with 9.537. Li was the all-around gold medalist in Atlanta.

Germany's Valeri Belenki, France's Christophe Poupade and North Korean defending champion Pae Gil-Su all scored 9.700 in the men's pommel horse final.



Jinjing Zhang of China performs his parallel bars exercise during the men's apparatus finals of the World Gymnastic Championships in Lausanne. Zhang won the gold medal (Reuters photo)

The new regulations state that, in the event of a tie, scores achieved in qualifying are used to separate the gymnasts. That meant Belenki took the gold ahead of Poupade, also the silver medalist in Brisbane in 1994, and the Korean.

Simona Amanar of Romania, the silver medalist in the women's all-around event, struck gold in the women's vault final.

Amanar had 9.712 points to win from Zhou Duan of China (9.606) and fellow Romanian Gina Gogean (9.600). All-around champion Svetlana Khorkina of Russia only completed one vault and finished eighth

and last.

Khorkina made up for that disappointment by winning her second gold in the uneven bars. She scored 9.875 points to edge Chinese duo Meng Fei (9.800) and Bi Wenjing (9.786).

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• Fluent in both Arabic & English (oral & written).
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All qualified candidates are kindly requested to submit their CVs with a personal photo to the following address no later than 10/9/1997: Personnel Director, P.O. Box 950502 - Amman 11195

U.S. Open diary
• Zvereva foiled in Slam doubles bid: Natasha Zvereva of Belarus was foiled in her bid to complete a women's doubles Grand Slam sweep here Saturday when she and American Gigi Fernandez lost to Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna. The two-time defending U.S. Open champions and top seeds lost 6-3, 6-4, to Czech Novotna and her American partner, who were seeded third. Zvereva, the world's top-ranked doubles player, sought her eighth doubles crown of the year. She won the Australian Open title teamed with 16-year-old Swiss star Martina Hingis, the singles world number one, and took Wimbledon and the French Open alongside Fernandez. Zvereva, denied her 19th Slam doubles title and fifth crown here, must find a new partner next year because Fernandez is retiring.
• Gigi Fernandez says farewell: American Gigi Fernandez, who announced her retirement from WTA singles play after a first-round loss here at the U.S. Open, said she also will retire from doubles at year's end. "It's a tough decision," Fernandez said. "I'm happy I'm going out on a good year. I appreciate Natasha having finished the year with me." The duo split up before the Australian Open but got back together in time to win the French Open and Wimbledon titles together. The two will play in Tokyo later this month and the season-ending WTA Championships here in November.

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EXAMINATIONS
The British Council would like to announce that entries for the University of London GCE January 1998 session and the University of Cambridge IGCSE/GCE November 1997 session will be accepted from Monday 8 September to Thursday 11 September 1997.
We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.
Registration time: 09:30 am to 12:30 pm
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Israel hunts for exit from south Lebanon quagmire

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Traumatized by its worst military setback in Lebanon in more than a decade, Israel was torn once again Sunday by debate over whether it should withdraw from the buffer zone it occupies in the neighbouring state.

"The Israeli people and government want to leave Lebanon," Foreign Minister David Levy said following the death of 12 elite marine commandos in a failed raid deep into Lebanon Friday.

"More than ever this government must carry out a thorough review of its Lebanon policy," Mr. Levy said on Israel Radio ahead of a cabinet meeting which discussed Friday's night-time raid, the deadliest debacle in Israel's partial occupation of Lebanon since 1983.

Even as the cabinet prepared to meet, another Israeli soldier was reported killed during an attack by Islamic guerrillas on an army position in the buffer zone to which Israeli occupation forces withdrew in 1985, Lebanese sources said.

With Friday's loss, 1997 is already Israel's deadliest year in Lebanon since 1985 and the shock has opened deep rifts within government over how to proceed.

With Mr. Levy, at least three senior ministers have publicly raised the suggestion of a possible unilateral withdrawal, including the cabinet's leading hawk, Ariel Sharon, and Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani.

However, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected any pullout not accompanied by a political agreement with Lebanon and its Syrian sponsors to guarantee the security of Israel's northern border.

"Everyone wants out of Lebanon, but we cannot rush it," Mr. Netanyahu was quoted by Israel Radio as telling the meeting.

Mr. Netanyahu also lambasted wavering ministers.

saying "this public debate can only encourage the terrorists from Hizbollah," the Islamist movement battling Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai backed him up.

"Given the lack of any real authority in Lebanon which could guarantee that there will be no more terrorist attacks, it would be totally irresponsible to leave Lebanon," Mr. Mordechai's spokesman, Avi Benayahu, told Agence France Presse.

President Ezer Weizman also said an Israeli pullout "would be impossible without the agreement of Syria," which has some 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon and is the main conduit for arms and aid going to Hizbollah from Iran.

The debate has also opened a rift in the opposition Labour Party. Saturday, Yossi Beilin, a senior Labour figure and key architect of the Oslo peace accords with the Palestinians, announced that he was creating a movement in favour of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

But as the party leadership met Sunday to discuss his initiative, there was strong opposition. "Such a decision would only be seen as a sign of weakness by Arab countries and Hizbollah," said MK Uzi Baran.

Labour leader Ehud Barak has come out in favour of a compromise proposal for a gradual withdrawal from the buffer zone of Israeli troops on condition they are replaced by the Lebanese army and an international peacekeeping force to prevent Hizbollah attacks.

An opinion poll carried out Friday shortly after the disastrous commando raid found that 52 per cent of those queried favoured a unilateral pullout from Lebanon, while 34 per cent

Did spy betray botched Israeli raid in Lebanon?

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli press wondered aloud Sunday whether a spy in the Israeli army may have betrayed a top secret commando raid into Lebanon last week which ran into an ambush with the loss of 12 men.

Military commentators brushed aside an army denial that the 16-member marine commando squad fell into an ambush in the early hours of Friday, asserting that available evidence indicated that anti-Israeli guerrillas in Lebanon had advance knowledge of the nighttime raid.

"This was a classic and very well executed ambush," said Zeev Schiff, the respected military correspondent for the Haaretz newspaper.

"Despite the natural tendency for the defence establishment to dismiss the possibility of an intelligence leak or a carefully planned intelligence trap, neither can be ruled out," he said.

"The overwhelming impression is that the Hizbollah fighters had advance warning and were lying in wait for the commando unit," he said.

The army announced that it had opened an investigation into the incident, headed by Major General Gabi Ofir, and said its conclusions would be ready in two weeks.

The military correspondent for Israel public radio agreed that the disastrous failure of the raid "raises a series of questions."

"Is there a spy?" he asked. Mr. Schiff said evidence pointing to a well-planned ambush included Hizbollah's use "of a device which explodes above ground, spraying thousands of bits of shrapnel. With the explosion they immediately opened fire."

The timing of the explosion was also perfect. It was

aimed at the middle of the Israeli force to cause maximum casualties," he said.

According to the army, the blast set off a powerful explosive charge being carried by one of the commandos, killing him and several others.

"From a technical and operational point of view, the ambush gets high marks," Mr. Schiff said.

"It is hard to believe that such a sophisticated ambush could have been set up if the commandos were only first seen landing on the coast," he said.

Theories of what went wrong ranged from a spy inside the Israeli army to a Lebanese double agent who may have lured the army into launching the raid.

The army has said nothing about the target of the operation, which took place near the coastal village of Insarrah south of the port city of Sidon.

Reports from Lebanon said the village was a headquarters of the Amal Movement, which has stepped up attacks in recent months on Israeli troops stationed in the self-declared security zone in south Lebanon. But Hizbollah movement appears to have led the fighting against the commando squad.

The loss of 12 men from one of Israel's most elite military units shocked the country and revived once again a public debate on whether the army should simply withdraw unilaterally from the self-declared zone it has occupied in south Lebanon since 1985.

Another Israeli soldier was reported by Lebanese sources to have been killed early Sunday in a Hizbollah attack on an army position inside the security zone.

His death brought to 31 the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon so far this year.



BEST ACTRESS KISSES AWARD: American actress Robin Tunney kisses her trophy as she's awarded as best actress in the independent U.S. movie Niagara by Bob Gosse at the 45th Venice Film Festival Saturday. Japanese Director Takeshi Kitano won the Golden Lion award for his film 'Hana-Bi' (Reuters photo)

Turkey calls for EU pressure on Greece to disarm Aegean islands

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey on Sunday called on the European Union to exert pressure on Athens to demilitarise the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea which it said had been armed in violation of international agreements.

"The EU should urgently take into account the case of the eastern Aegean islands which have been militarised despite international agreements," Foreign Minister Ismail Cem told reporters here.

"The EU should call on Greece to clear the way before the international law regarding the eastern Aegean islands," Mr. Cem said.

Although allies in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Greece and Turkey remain tense neighbours and are at odds over several Aegean matters and the Cyprus question.

The two came to the brink of war in January 1996 over the sovereignty of a handful of uninhabited Aegean islets, called Imia by the Greeks and Kardak by the Turks. Only heavy U.S. diplomatic pressure prevented an armed conflict.

Turkey accuses Greece of refusing to accept mediation by the International Court of Justice in the Hague over the arming of the Aegean islands.

But Ankara itself refuses a call by Greece and the EU to accept the International Court's mediation for the disputed Imia-Kardak islets.

Mr. Cem said he had conveyed Turkey's call for EU pressure on Greece to the foreign ministers of France,

Italy and Luxembourg whom he had met recently. He did not say how the European ministers had responded.

Turkey on Saturday announced it would not take part in NATO's annual military manoeuvres in the Aegean Sea this year, due to be held Sept. 23 to October 9, blaming NATO "concessions" to Greece.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry justified its decision by saying the NATO had made "concessions" to Greece to obtain its participation in this year's manoeuvres, dubbed "dynamic mix," by changing the area of the exercises in Athens' favour.

Greece has balked for several years over the NATO exercises there.

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Iranian job seekers dream of Kuwait's opportunities

KUWAIT (R) — On a moonless night in Iran, 36-year-old Ahmad Reza kissed his sleeping child goodbye and promised his sobbing wife a better life upon his return from Kuwait.

His companions, who sneaked to Kuwait in the same flimsy boat, said he never made it to the rich Arab state.

He drowned, they told Reza's childhood friend Ali who was awaiting his arrival in Kuwait after reaching the city a week earlier.

"They left the boat off Fintas (south of Kuwait city) and swam to the beach," said Mr. Ali, who drives an American cab in Kuwait. "Mr. Ahmad was not a good swimmer."

In contrast, Ali came to Kuwait in a fast boat during daylight with a Kuwaiti work permit in hand.

Mr. Ahmad, however, was one of hundreds of undocumented Iranian job seekers who flock to Kuwait each month.

For many Iranian job seekers the 50 kilometres trip across the Gulf is a life-time dream. It is an opportunity to make 10 times as much money than they could in their homeland.

Hardships await illegal immigrants the so-called "infiltrators" pay about \$1,000 to boat keepers for the perilous journey to

Kuwait in the hope of finding a job.

Some boats manage, under the cover of dark, to slip past Kuwait's patrol boats and the state's floating checkpoint which inspects vessels for barred goods and illegal immigrants.

On land, police arrest about 100 illegal Iranian immigrants each month, diplomats say. The "more fortunate ones" take low-paid jobs and keep a low profile to avoid contact with police and labour inspectors, they say.

"When the police crack down on us, we hide at home for a week without pay," said Hashemi, an illegal immigrant, who works on building sites.

Mr. Hashemi and his colleagues wait patiently in the mornings on a street in a Hawalli suburb, hoping a building contractor will hire them at a daily rate of \$33.

Kuwait courts traditionally jail illegal immigrants for six months before they are deported at their own expense, lawyers say.

Kuwait has been a favourite destination for Iranian emigrants in recent decades. Some Iranians in Kuwait believe high unemployment rates at home country has increased the flow of workers out of the country.

"There are no jobs, that is why they take the risk of going in a small boat to Kuwait without a visa," said

Mehdi, an Iranian grocer in Kuwait.

Iran has a population of more than 60 million with an unemployment rate of 10.7 per cent and 20 per cent inflation. Labourers earn about \$70 a month in Iran. In Kuwait they can earn up to \$700.

Although each of the two countries sits on 10 per cent of the world's total proven oil reserves, Iran has 30 times Kuwait's population.

Kuwait places tough curbs on foreign workers anxious to collect a share of the country's petrodollars.

"As long as we have enough unskilled foreign workers in the country we are against allowing more of them to come. We already have too many," said a labour ministry official.

Kuwait hosts 1.25 million foreigners mainly from Arab and Asian countries. Drug peddling is another problem for Kuwaiti officials.

"I came with two people who said they planned to work in a scrap yard. Two weeks later they were arrested for trading in hashish," said an Iranian illegal immigrant.

Some of the "infiltrators" carry some narcotics to recover the cost of the trip, he said. "I think it is all right to bring a little hashish with you but not to make a business out of it," shrugged an Iranian plumber.

Egyptian rights group calls for Nuremberg trials for Israelis

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) called Sunday for Israeli soldiers to be tried for war crimes committed during the 1956 and 1967 Israeli-Arab conflicts in an international forum like the Nuremberg trials.

"The assassins should be tried because we believe that they committed one of the worst crimes committed since World War II," said Mohammad Bassiuni, coordinator of the EOHR campaign to defend the rights of Egyptian prisoners of war.

Nazis responsible for the Holocaust, in which six million Jews died, were tried in Nuremberg, Germany, after

World War II.

In August 1995, Israeli officers revealed that hundreds of Egyptian troops were killed after they threw down their weapons in the Suez conflict, which pitted Egypt against Israel in 1956 and in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Israel says that the statute of limitations for the killings has lapsed. Under Israeli law, a defendant may not be tried for killing prisoners of war after 20 years.

However, the EOHR said "the perpetrators must not escape their punishment because this is a matter of crimes against humanity."

The group is asking for the creation of an international

court, as occurred at Nuremberg.

The EOHR is also demanding "public apologies from the Israeli government for crimes committed by its soldiers during the 1956 and 1967 wars" and "international guarantees to protect civilians and soldiers from such occurrences in the future."

The EOHR also demanded "compensation for the victims' families in proportion to the crimes committed."

The EOHR said it will continue to collect testimony from former Egyptian prisoners of war and their families and to speak about the matter to international human rights groups.

French deputies oppose resumed relations with Iran

PARIS (AFP) — Thirty-two French parliamentarians have signed a petition opposing the resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Iran, sponsors of the petition said Sunday.

The parliamentarians, from the ruling left-wing coalition, comprise 22 deputies in the National Assembly, three senators and seven members of the European Parliament. They include Socialists, Communists and Greens.

The petition, also signed by French trade unionists and university teachers, was organised by the League of Human Rights and the Defence Committee in France of British writer Salman Rushdie.

The petition urged the government not to resume diplomatic relations until Tehran officially renounced terrorism and the killing of members of the opposition and cancelled the decree sentencing Mr. Rushdie to death.

France and other European Union members recalled their ambassadors to Tehran after an April 10 Berlin court verdict that said Iran was guilty of the murder of four Iranian Kurds killed in 1992 in a restaurant in the city.

Iranian, American navies almost clash in Arabian Gulf over search

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian and U.S. naval forces nearly clashed recently in international Gulf waters when the Americans insisted on searching an Iranian boat, the head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said Sunday.

General Mosen Rezaei said in an interview with Salam newspaper that an American warship apparently seeking to enforce the U.N. embargo against Iraq had stopped the Iranian boat on its way to Kuwait.

"Six American troops sailed in a boat towards our boat and asked to get in. The commander of our boat sent a radio message to the base and was told to resist any attempt for a search," he said.

Then the base in Mahshahr port, southwest Iran, "sent three speedboats

in less than an hour, forcing the U.S. boat to withdraw towards the warship," the general added. "We told them that they would be responsible if anything happens."

Tehran and Washington have been at odds since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-American shah. Iran is strongly opposed to the presence of U.S. forces in the Gulf, stationed there to protect oil-rich Gulf Arab monarchies against perceived threats from Iran or Iraq.

Mr. Rezaei boasted that Iran's "intransigence has forced the Americans to show restraint."

"It has been proved to the Americans that Iran is a dangerous place to invade. They may be able to attack us, but they will not find it

easy to get out," he said.

"We are constantly making progress in the military sense; we are building barracks, installing missiles and moving troops right next to where the U.S. forces are stationed," the general added.

Mr. Rezaei also predicted that the U.S. forces stationed in the Gulf would retreat to the Gulf of Oman in several years. "America's will for a war in the region is receding," he said.

The general said, meanwhile, that his country sought "truly friendly and constructive relations" with the Arab states across the Gulf. "Our political attitude has shown our Arab brothers that we are not after expansionism and I hope for better days in the future," he said.



Omani baby named after late Princess Diana

MUSCAT (AFP) — An Omani couple have named their baby after Princess Diana who died the same day as their daughter was born, hospital sources said Sunday. The mother chose the name but her husband initially refused because it is not a Muslim name. "The dispute is now over. He agreed on Diana yesterday after watching the princess' funeral," a worker at Khawla Hospital said.

Mattel not impressed with new 'Barbie' song

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Tune into any pop station in the U.S. and chances are that in minutes you'll be listening to the hit song "Barbie Girl" by the Danish group Aqua. However the folks at the Mattel toy company, makers of the Barbie doll and its myriad accessories, would be much happier if the song had never been written. A sample of the lyrics: "I'm a Barbie girl in a Barbie world/Life in plastic/It's fantastic. You can brush my hair/Undress me everywhere." Mattel spokesman Sean Fitzgerald is not impressed.

Man survives after swallowing 46 teaspoons

TAORMINA (AFP) — A 45-year-old Italian man required emergency hospital treatment after swallowing 46 teaspoons and numerous other household objects made of metal or plastic, doctors said. The man ingested a total two and a half kilograms of inedible matter, including two cigarette lighters and a pair of table tongs. "This is so extraordinary that I am going to present the case to the scientific community," said surgeon Vincenzo Morici who operated on the man in Taormina, Sicily.

See Copperfield and go mad — priest

MOSCOW (AFP) — A Russian Orthodox priest has warned one can go mad or become suicidal from attending the shows of U.S. magician David Copperfield, currently on tour in Russia. "Your participation and even your presence as spectators during such occult performances have spiritual and physical consequences that can lead to madness and suicide," said Father Tikhon, the head of the Stretenskiy monastery in Moscow.

Woman wants to marry off companion to husband

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian woman is seeking to marry off a close female friend to her husband in a bid to ensure her continued company, a newspaper reported Sunday. The woman, who was not identified, went to a court in the southern Tehran suburb of Rey this week to authorise her husband take a second wife, her friend, the daily Iran said. She spoke to the judge of being "strongly attached" to her female friend and said she was "deeply depressed" when her companion had decided to get married, leading her friend to scrap her plan.

Figgis to shoot new film in Italy in October

DEAUVILLE (AFP) — British film director Mike Figgis is heading to Italy to shoot a new small-budget film on children's first awareness of sex and death. The film, provisionally entitled "Death and the Loss of sex and romance" is based on a series of short "childhood stories" written 12 years ago "about the first awareness of sex, about the first awareness of death," Figgis said. These "erotic" stories will be about "Adam and Eve in a completely ruined Italian garden."

Palestinian dies at Israeli

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By Larry Wright

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